BBC

*JUST PAY £5.95 POSTAGE

ADVICE FROM OUR EXPERTS

AND BREATHE...
Monty on the power of evocative scented plants

LOOK AGAIN!
Arit's design ideas for tricking your eye

MEMORY LANE
Adam shares pots inspired by holidays

August 2025

GARDENING MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Gardeners' World

Frances solves your **SUMMER PROBLEMS**

The art of mixing **flowers and veg**

EXPERT TIPS *from a* **Scottish community nursery**

Taste of the tropics

- Exotic plant guide
- Urban jungle inspiration
- Style from St Lucia

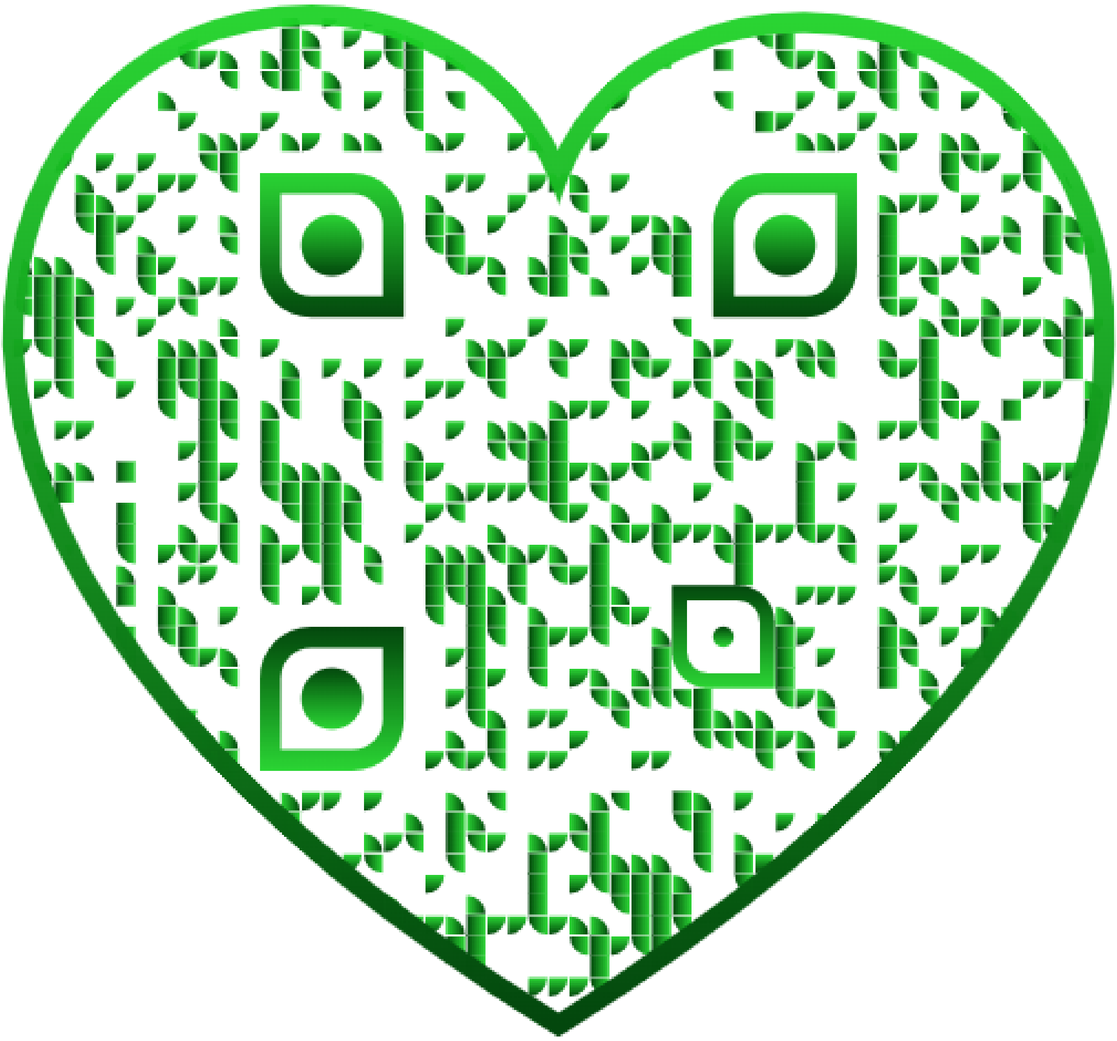
Create calm with our *indoor water projects*

£6.75
August issue on sale 17 Jul - 14 Aug
GardenersWorld.com

WHAT TO DO NOW
50

12 pages of essential timely tasks

- ✓ **Take** cuttings
- ✓ **Prune** apple trees
- ✓ **Collect** seeds
- ✓ **Tidy up** lawns



FRESH FROM
MARKET STREET

Hello sunshine

Our British sweetcorn is grown on the Isle of Wight, where they soak up the most sun in the country.

More reasons to shop at

Morrisons

Welcome to August

Plants enhance our lives in many ways whether it's through their colour, scent, sound, fruit or simply the sense of wellbeing they bring. But one of the things I love most is how different types of plants can make us feel. Whether individually or en masse – and depending on its size, shape and habit – a plant can boost our mood, evoke awe or bring us peace. Trees can be humbling and new shoots pushing through bare soil joyous, but many plants also spark a memory or a sensation, and the best thing about gardening is that we get to choose what we grow and why. If we want to feel uplifted by a riotous cottage garden or transported back to a favourite holiday destination with a dense jungle of green, we can.

In my family's garden, we're aiming for a succession of colour, with something – a flower, leaf, stem or berry – to look at most days. Many of our plants have been chosen for the close links they have to a time or place: the first time we saw them in the wild, while on a garden visit or at a friend's house. But whatever the reason, they all instil a sense of place, be it Scotland, Spain or India!

A verdant oasis is many people's dream garden and although this may sound tricky, all you need are vibrant colours, bold foliage and a mix of hardy and tender plants to evoke an exotic mood. In our tropical special from page 81, we focus on that spirit, with all the inspiration you need to get the holiday feeling right outside your back door, including Adam's holiday pots of plants inspired by his travels and a London family's jungle-style garden, with expert plant choices and care tips to help you get the look just right.

So, whether you're off to a far-flung destination to get ideas for future planting plans or simply kicking back in your own garden this summer, we can help you capture the holiday vibe right here.

Kay

Kay Maguire, Editor

PS... Don't forget to check ***Gardeners' World* socials** for team updates on their **Make a Metre Matter** projects and share your own metre transformations on your social channels by tagging us ***@gardenersworldmag*** or ***#makeametrematter***

Extend...

... the gardening season in style at our **Autumn Fair** (Essex, 29-31 Aug). Enjoy an inspiring day out brimming with seasonal expert advice, plants and gardening kit to buy, the **Good Food Market** and more. For **10% off** standard tickets*, quote **GWR10** and visit **bbcgardenersworldlive.com/autumn-fair** – see you there!

Listen to...

... our **Summer Conversations podcast**, which has new episodes every Tuesday and Thursday, including the fascinating world of gardening for wildlife with **Adam Frost** at **GardenersWorld.com/podcast**

Join us...

... as we meet **Alan Titchmarsh** for a special evening at **Highgrove Gardens**. **See page 52** to book your place.

Pick up...

GUIDE
Gardening for shade

... our newest guide, ***Gardening for shade***. Inside this 132-page special edition is everything you need to know to get the best from your shady plot and ensure success all year round. Order now at **bit.ly/guides-gw**

WHATSAPP @Gardeners' World Mag
PINTEREST @GWmag
X (formerly Twitter) @GWmag
INSTAGRAM @gardenersworldmag
FACEBOOK @GWmagazine
YOUTUBE @BBCGardenersWorldMagazine

EDITOR'S PORTRAIT: JASON INGRAM *T&CS APPLY

LEGO
SHOP
NOT JUST
NEW,
FUN-TASTIC
NEW!

LEGO® sets, the gift that always clicks!

LEGO sets featured in this advertisement are available to purchase now (LEGO® City Off-Road 4x4 Mountain Truck (60447), LEGO® Friends Pet Accessories Shop (42650), LEGO® DREAMZzz™ Cooper's Gaming Controller Jet (71489) and LEGO® NINJAGO® Dragon Spinjitzu Battle Pack (71826).

LEGO, the LEGO logo, NINJAGO, DREAMZzz and the Minifigure are trademarks of the LEGO Group. ©2025 The LEGO Group.

BBC
Gardeners' World magazine
Established 1991

The home of gardening expertise you can trust

Here at *GW*, our goal is simple: to provide expert, trusted advice and inspiration to gardeners – whenever and wherever they need us. Through all of this, we're rooted in a set of core values that are at the heart of all we do:

✔ **Dependable advice** We equip everyone to get the very best from their plants and gardens. Our in-house gardening experts are trained to the highest standard and always deliver dependable know-how, making *GW* the go-to place for practical advice.

✔ **Top gardening names** We work with the best gardening writers and content creators in the business, including *Gardeners' World* TV presenters and other high-profile names. Our content is world-class, with quality, impartiality and accuracy at its core.

✔ **Every space counts** We understand that gardens come in all shapes and sizes, from indoor windowsills and balconies to country plots and community spaces. Our content is inclusive, and we recognise that everyone can garden regardless of their ability, space, available time or budget.

✔ **Homegrown & healthy** We champion the health benefits of gardening. Whether it's growing veggies with the kids to encourage healthy eating, or getting outdoors to aid mental health, we recognise and celebrate how good gardening is for us.

✔ **Beyond the plot** We help the nation's gardeners engage with their passion in all areas of life – think live events (big and small), travel inspiration and a podcast for the commute. We're on hand for gardeners whenever they need us.

✔ **Planet first** Above all, we put the interests of the planet at the heart of everything we do, from caring for garden wildlife and encouraging environment-friendly techniques to working in the most sustainable ways possible. And we understand that gardeners care deeply about the climate crisis.

Thank you for being part of our *GW* family – it means a lot to have you on board. And however you enjoy *GW*, happy gardening!

Kevin Smith,
Content Director
@kevinsmithgarden

Kevin

Meet your *GW* team

LEADING THE WAY
Content Director Kevin Smith
Magazines Editor Kay Maguire
Head of Content Adam Duxbury
Head of Digital Catherine Mansley
Head of Operations Gregor Shepherd

CREATING QUALITY GARDENING CONTENT
Horticultural Editor Emma Crawforth **Digital Editor** Blake Roberts **Senior Content Creator** Sonya Patel Ellis **Picture Editor** Sarah Edwards **Audio/visual Editor** Claire Vennis **Strategic Projects Editor** Oliver Parsons **Social Media Lead** Rachael Gibson **Video Content Developer** Jordan Kelly-Linden **Editorial Assistant** Sydney James

GETTING THE DETAIL RIGHT
Art Director Jo Cloke **Art Editor** Andrew Ellis
Multimedia designer Emma Langschied
Chief Sub Editor John Perkins
Multimedia Sub Editor Shirley Accini

PUBLISHING AND MARKETING
Commercial Director Rachel Clare
Brand Manager Emma Davis **Commerce Manager** Rita Baptiste **Brand Marketing Executive** Phoebe Elliott **Commerce and Digital Marketing Executive** Lois Elliott
Brand Admin Assistant Sara Bhambra

With thanks to Paula Boyd-Barrett, Neil Darby, Lily Middleton, Tamsin Hope Thomson, Greg Loades, Jean Postle, Rosie Yeomans

We're always here…

In print…

Get your monthly gardening fix with our flagship magazine and special editions – always packed with quality content from your favourite gardeners

Online…

Visit **GardenersWorld.com** for instant expert advice on plants and practical gardening, at your fingertips whenever you need us

Podcasts…

Listen to lively gardening chat twice a week with *GW* presenters and industry experts – find us wherever you get your podcasts

At live events…

Join us in person to see your favourite *GW* presenters in action and glean tonnes of inspiration. Visit **bbcgardenersworldlive.com** for the latest information

On social media…

Find us on your favourite platforms to interact with all things *GW* on the go

TikTok WhatsApp Facebook Instagram X Pinterest YouTube

How to get in touch

GENERAL ENQUIRIES
020 7150 5770
(Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm)
magazine@gardenersworld.com

BBC Gardeners' World Magazine
Immediate
44 Brook Green
London W6 7BT

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES
03330 162123
buysubscriptions.com/help

READER OFFER ENQUIRIES
020 7150 5780

PHOTOS: JASON INGRAM; STUART PURFIELD

Contents

We love...

8 We love **August**
19 Full Monty: **gardens as concepts**
22 Expert's choice: **fab fuchsias**
26 **2 for 1 Gardens:** family favourites

Be inspired

28 Monty focuses on **fragrance**
40 Arit's new sensory series: **sight**
82 **GOTY finalist:** discover a suburban slice of paradise
90 Create your own **exotic haven**
98 Adam's **holiday-inspired pots**
104 Garden globetrotting: bring a **Caribbean vibe** to your garden
108 **Nursery visit:** Kevock Garden Plants' treasures for wellbeing
116 Growing **aquatic plants indoors**

Do it now

34 Frances Tophill's easy tips to keep your garden in **good shape**
55 Root of the matter: kick-start your **soil into life**
77 Make a Metre Matter: **start composting**

Grow & Eat

46 Nick Bailey's **edible borders**
122 **Veg plot tasks** from Sara Ward
129 **10 delicious crops** to sow now

Q&A

130 Gardeners' Question Time

Last words

137 **Crossword** and puzzles
153 Next month
154 Tales from Titchmarsh

34
Frances's advice for summer problem-solving

Make a
Metre
Matter
77
How to make garden compost in just a square metre

40
Arit explores the importance of sight in creating a garden

26
Gardens to visit that will keep all the family entertained

Gardeners' World magazine
2 FOR 1 GARDENS 2025

Gardeners' World offers

Offers for you

20
Fill pots and beds with cheery pansies for flowers all winter

FREE* for every reader
20 Get **30 winter-flowering pansies** worth £24.95 to fill your borders and containers with colour **just pay £5.95 postage*

Subscribe today!
24 & 151 Pay just £24.50 every 6 issues – saving 42% on the shop price

Plants
17 Save 20% on Hayloft's wide selection of plants
75 Save 15% on Farmer Gracy's exciting range of spring daffodils

107
Enjoy the villas and gardens of Italy's glorious lakes

Travel
52 Book now for an afternoon at **Highgrove** with **Alan Titchmarsh**
97 Enjoy **solo travel** with river cruises in **Portugal and Germany**
107 Relax on **no-fly holidays** in **Italy and Switzerland**

For more great offers, visit **GardenersWorld.com/garden-offers**

PHOTOS: ALAMY/IMAGEBROKER.COM, JOERN SACKERMANN; SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS; GETTY/CHARLES HAWES; NEIL HEPWORTH; JASON INGRAM. ILLUSTRATION: IAN CUNLIFFE

28
Monty shares his love of fragrance and his favourite scented plants

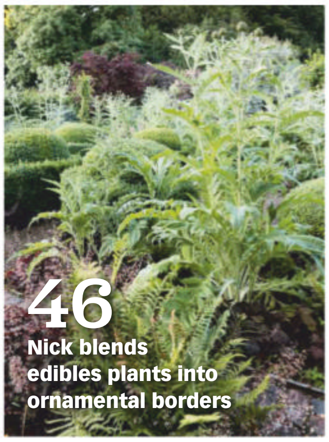
116
Simple ideas for eyecatching indoor water features

Your 12-page August planner

WHAT TO DO NOW
50
This month

58 Around the garden
63 Pruning
67 Wildlife
68 Flowers
71 House plants
73 Fruit & veg

50
things to do this month from the *Gardeners' World* team



46
Nick blends edibles plants into ornamental borders

On the cover

Exotic border planting by Alamy/John Richmond

Gardeners' World
Taste of the tropics

Tropical vibes

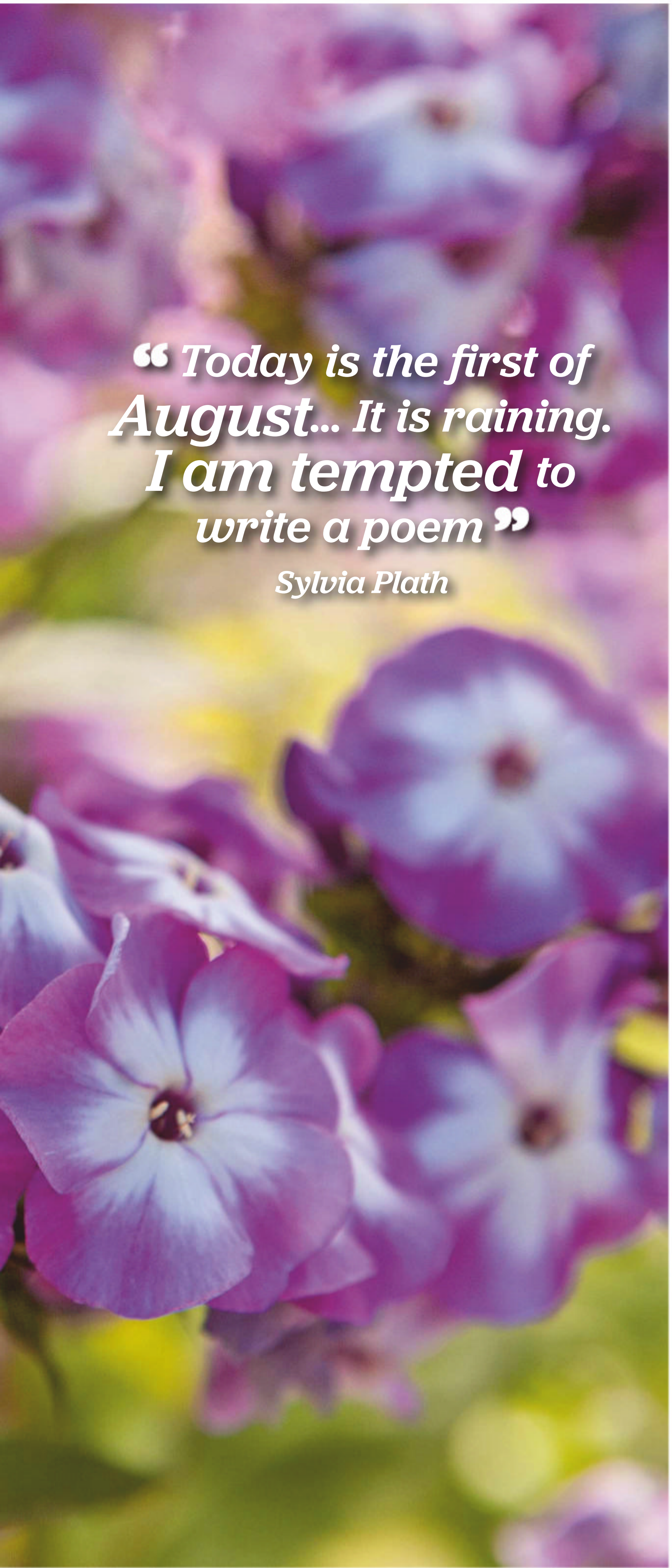
Enjoy 19 pages of inspiration to add exotic excitement to your garden

82 Jungle adventure
Explore how one of our GOTY finalists made a unique suburban rainforest

90 Exotic touches
Discover expert tips and plant choices to help you create your own lush oasis

98 Adam's holiday containers
A great way to grow plants that remind you of your travels

104 Global influences
Add a splash of Caribbean style, with inspiration from St Lucia



> “Today is the first of August... It is raining. I am tempted to write a poem”
>
> *Sylvia Plath*

We love August

This is a good month for lying on your back and looking at the stars. We concentrate so much on what is going on at soil level that we seldom take the time to look upwards – too much time on our knees planting and weeding. For a change, pick a warm, clear night. Take a drink and a friend, and go and lie on the lawn and breathe. Enjoy the darkness and the unfathomable emptiness of space. If that gets a bit heavy, then there is a meteor shower peaking on 12 August, so keep your eyes peeled for shooting stars.

WORDS JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR

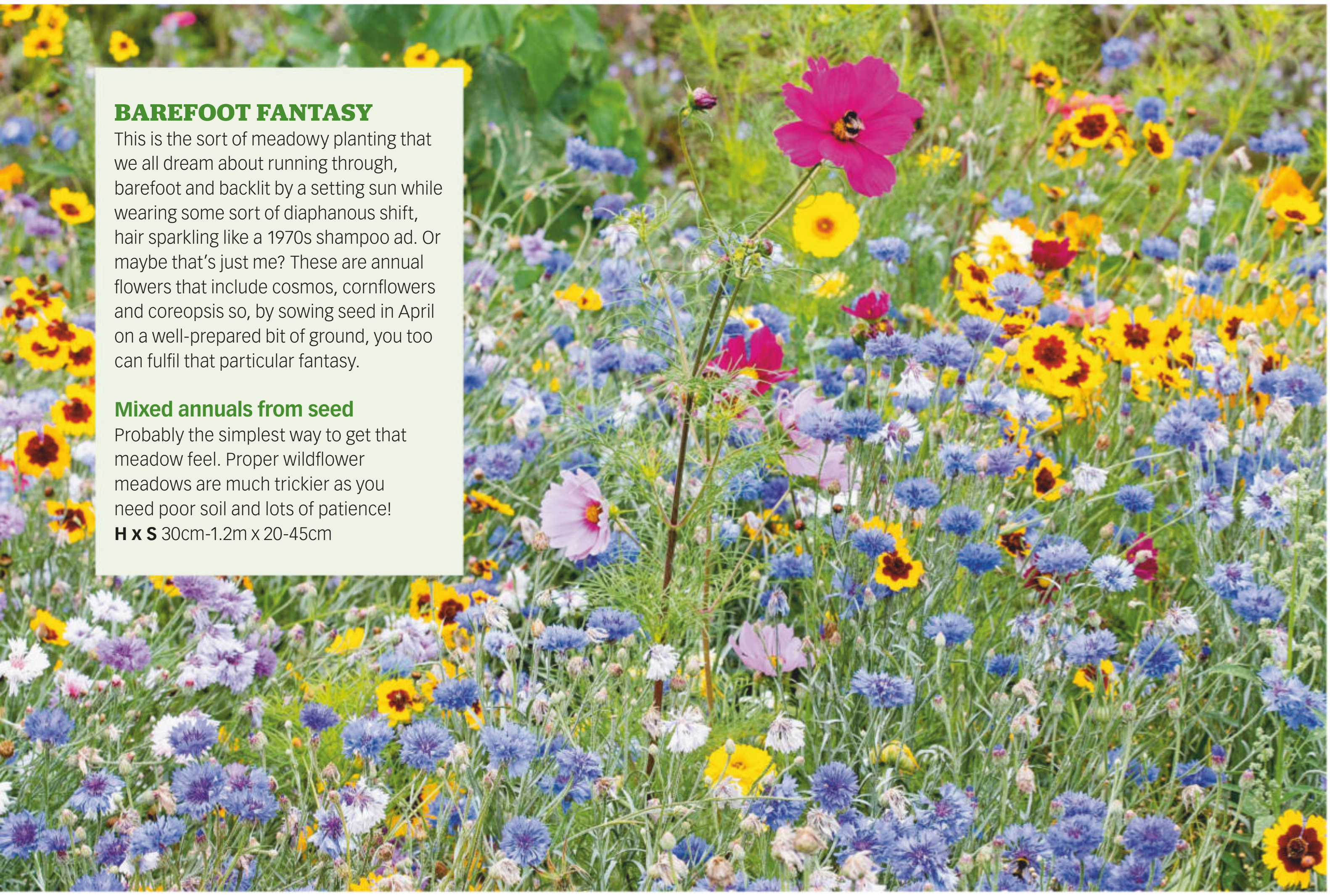
STAR OF THE MONTH

Phlox ‘Little Laura’

Sometimes our gardens can feel a little washed out and exhausted in August – all that early-summer fizziness is beginning to take its toll on our plants. A bit like one feels around 3am at a party where you cannot leave until the sun comes up – to be clear, it has been many years since I attended such an occasion, but I still remember the experience! What you need is a fillip and that is something that phlox can supply. A late onrush of colour and, just as important, scent to accompany the dahlias and the annuals.

Trouble free, good for pollinators. Divide in autumn or spring. Take basal cuttings in winter.
Height x Spread 70cm x 60cm

PHOTO: SARAH CUTTLE

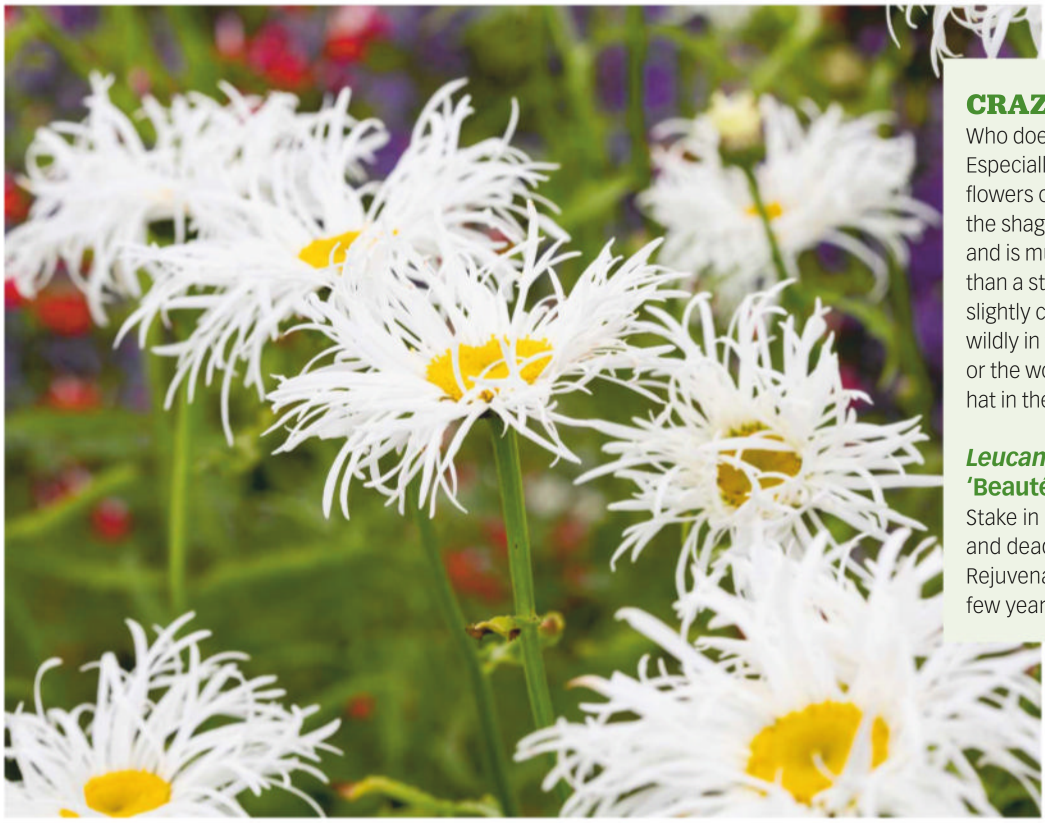


BAREFOOT FANTASY

This is the sort of meadowy planting that we all dream about running through, barefoot and backlit by a setting sun while wearing some sort of diaphanous shift, hair sparkling like a 1970s shampoo ad. Or maybe that's just me? These are annual flowers that include cosmos, cornflowers and coreopsis so, by sowing seed in April on a well-prepared bit of ground, you too can fulfil that particular fantasy.

Mixed annuals from seed

Probably the simplest way to get that meadow feel. Proper wildflower meadows are much trickier as you need poor soil and lots of patience! **H x S** 30cm-1.2m x 20-45cm



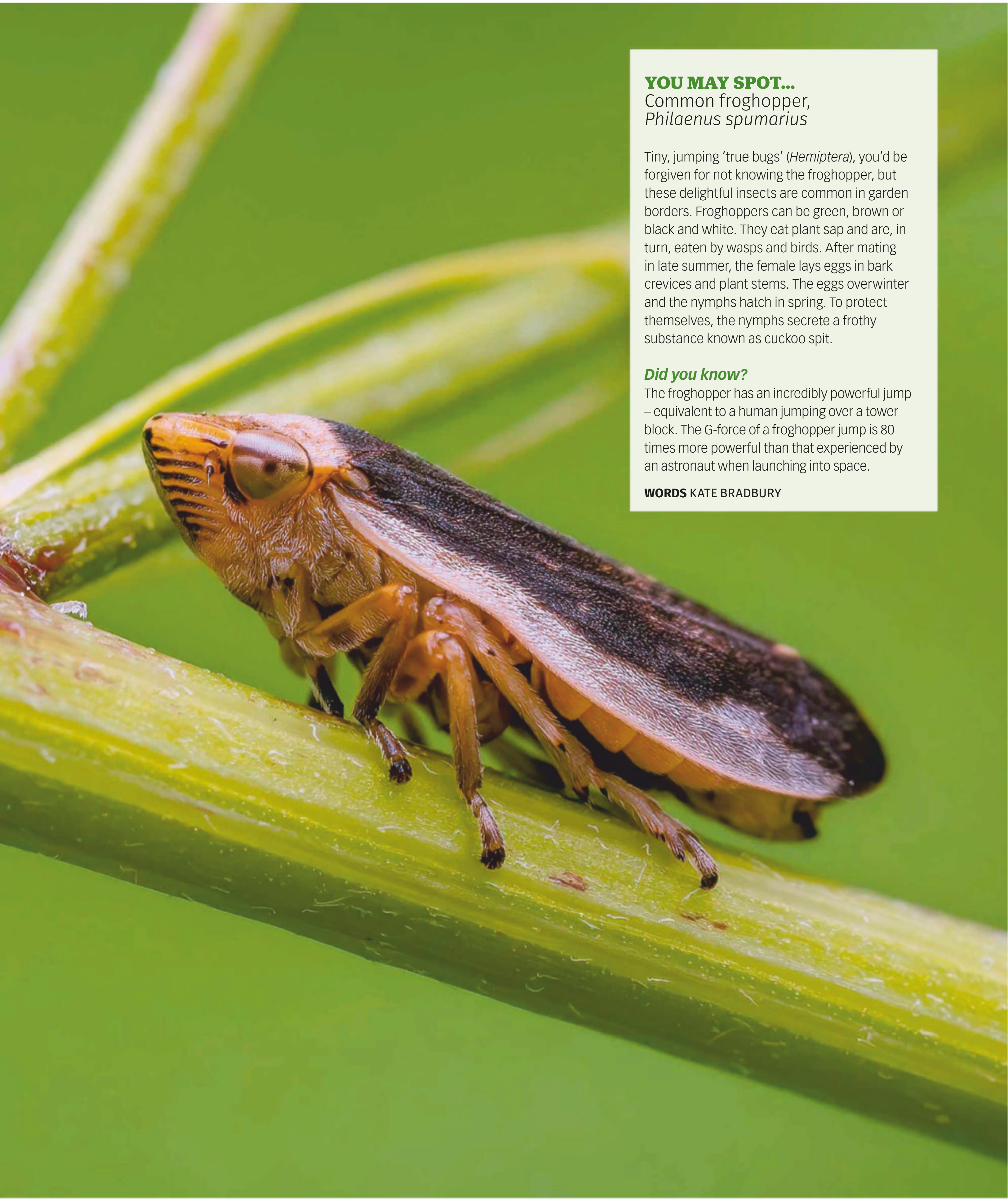
CRAZY MISS DAISY

Who doesn't love a shaggy petal? Especially from a daisy that gives so many flowers over a long period of time. I think the shagginess makes up for muted colour and is much more characterful and joyous than a straight-edged petal. This is the slightly crazy-looking naked guy dancing wildly in front of the stage at Woodstock or the woman in the markedly eccentric hat in the back row of a funeral.

Leucanthemum x *superbum* 'Beauté Nivelloise'

Stake in spring when plants are young and deadhead as the flowers fade. Rejuvenate by dividing clumps every few years. **H x S** 75cm x 60cm

PHOTOS: ALAMY/DAVID HAVEL; PAUL DEBOIS



YOU MAY SPOT…
Common froghopper,
Philaenus spumarius

Tiny, jumping 'true bugs' (*Hemiptera*), you'd be forgiven for not knowing the froghopper, but these delightful insects are common in garden borders. Froghoppers can be green, brown or black and white. They eat plant sap and are, in turn, eaten by wasps and birds. After mating in late summer, the female lays eggs in bark crevices and plant stems. The eggs overwinter and the nymphs hatch in spring. To protect themselves, the nymphs secrete a frothy substance known as cuckoo spit.

Did you know?

The froghopper has an incredibly powerful jump – equivalent to a human jumping over a tower block. The G-force of a froghopper jump is 80 times more powerful than that experienced by an astronaut when launching into space.

WORDS KATE BRADBURY

TOWERING INFERNOS

This is a very exciting plant: architectural but with swagger and zip. It is a half-hardy evergreen with amazing spires of orange flowers. A bit like a common foxglove that has had a massive makeover, a lot of personal training and a long holiday in the Canary Islands. It often appears in gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show to great acclaim and many gasps of excitement and delight.

Digitalis isabelliana

Hardy only in the most sheltered and protected gardens. Propagate by seed or semi-ripe cuttings in summer.

H x S 1.2m x 40cm

PLANT UP A POT…

SUN-SOAKED STYLE

August is generally holiday time, so I've created a tabletop container filled with sun-loving, holiday-proof plants. I've used the illustration on this vintage biscuit tin as inspiration for its plants, including *Tulbaghia violacea* (society garlic), *Pelargonium fragrans* (scented leaf pelargonium), *Senecio herreianus* (string of beads) and *Kalanchoe thysiflora* (paddle plant). The perpendicular sides of the tin mean that the top is as wide as the base (25cm x 25cm) and so it offers the opportunity to create a generously spaced arrangement that references how these sun worshippers live in the wild.

The five plants grow at a similarly steady pace so they won't overcrowd each other and compete too much for space and, because they only require minimal watering, will be happy left to their own devices when I go on holiday. Some of them will need winter protection from frost, but the tin is small and lightweight enough to be easily lifted indoors. Use a free-draining compost mix, one-part compost to one-part grit, adding an extra centimetre of grit on top of the compost as a decorative mulch.

Tips

- Pinch out tips of the senecio to encourage it to fill out.
- Remove faded tulbaghia stems at their base to keep the arrangement neat and floriferous.

WORDS LUCY BELLAMY

DIGITALIS WORDS: JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR.
PHOTOS: PAUL DEBOIS; JASON INGRAM

PEEK.FREAN
BISCUIT MAN

advertisement feature

A cut above the rest

From lopping to lawn care, you can maintain your garden with ease, thanks to Wilkinson Sword's Ultralight tool range

Whether you're pruning roses, trimming hedges or tackling hard-to-reach branches, looking after your outdoor space can be hard work – especially when you're lifting heavy tools.

That's why Wilkinson Sword created the Ultralight range: lightweight, durable gardening tools that blend strength, comfort and usability with precision-ground blades for smooth cuts every time.

Trusted by UK gardeners for more than 100 years, Wilkinson Sword is renowned for its innovative, reliable and great-value tools that make gardening easier for all ages and abilities. And its Ultralight range is no exception.

Made from lightweight materials, such as aluminium and carbon steel, these tools are up to 50 per cent lighter than standard ones, so you can shape your garden without strain – or sacrificing cutting power.

Prune to perfection

Unlike bulky standard loppers, Ultralight's are comfortable, easy to control and light enough for longer use. They also feature durable, rust-resistant, non-stick blades for cleaner cuts to help prevent plant damage. There are three models to choose from:

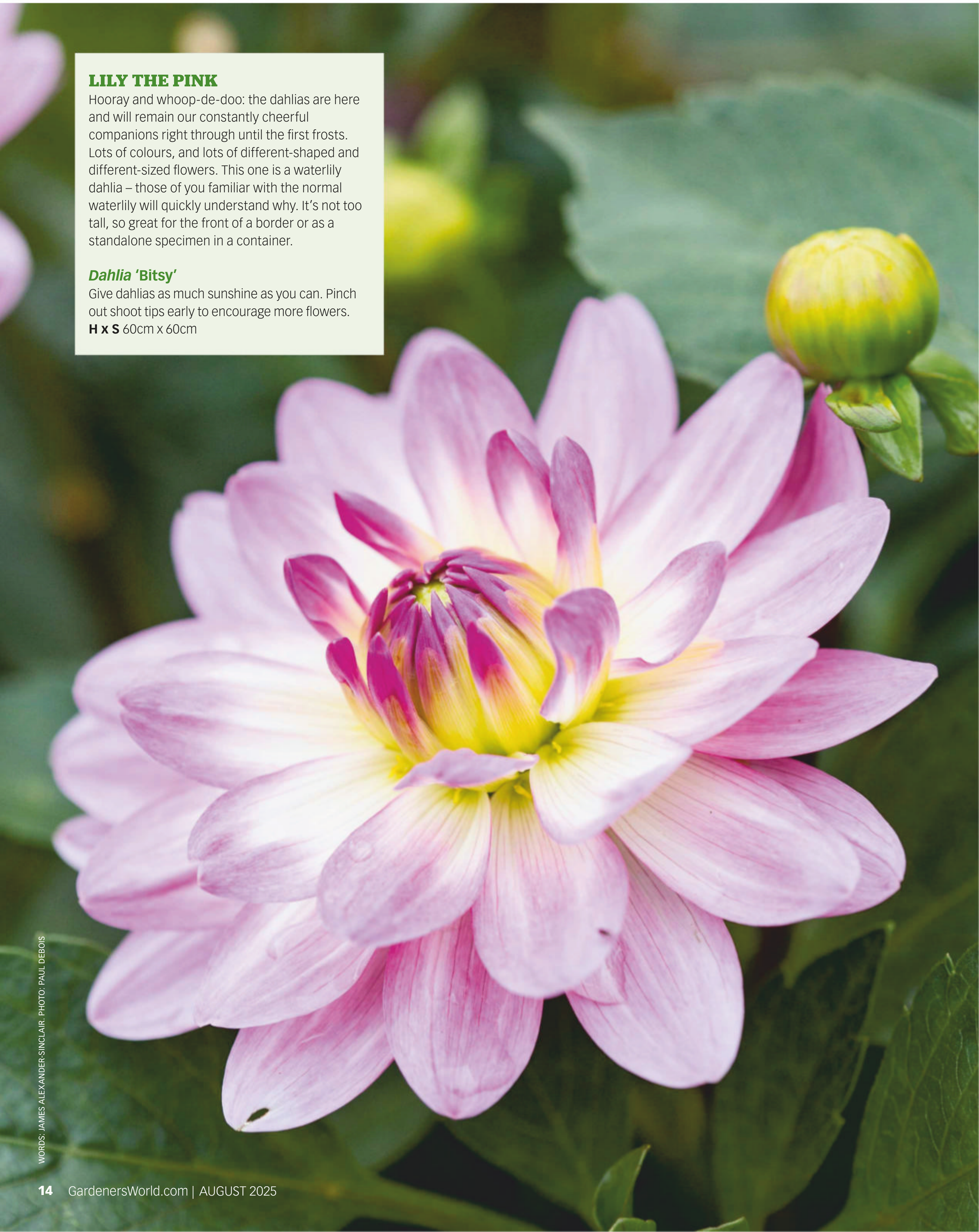
NEW Ultralight Bypass Loppers
They weigh just 450g and have a 25mm cutting capacity, a SK5 non-stick coated blade and a shaped cutting head to reduce effort.

Ultralight 24" Bypass Loppers
Ideal for green wood, they have a 30mm cutting diameter, a special cutting head designed for ease of use, and lightweight aluminium handles with comfortable soft grips.

NEW Ultralight Anvil Loppers
Weighing only 550g, they include a lever action mechanism for cutting thicker, older branches effortlessly.

WILKINSON SWORD ultralight

To explore the full Ultralight range, scan the QR code or visit **wilkinsonsword-tools.co.uk**



LILY THE PINK

Hooray and whoop-de-doo: the dahlias are here and will remain our constantly cheerful companions right through until the first frosts. Lots of colours, and lots of different-shaped and different-sized flowers. This one is a waterlily dahlia – those of you familiar with the normal waterlily will quickly understand why. It's not too tall, so great for the front of a border or as a standalone specimen in a container.

Dahlia 'Bitsy'

Give dahlias as much sunshine as you can. Pinch out shoot tips early to encourage more flowers.
H x S 60cm x 60cm

WORDS: JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR. PHOTO: PAUL DEBOIS

STIHL

PREMIUM
BATTERY TOOLS.
FROM STIHL.

FSA 50
GRASS TRIMMER

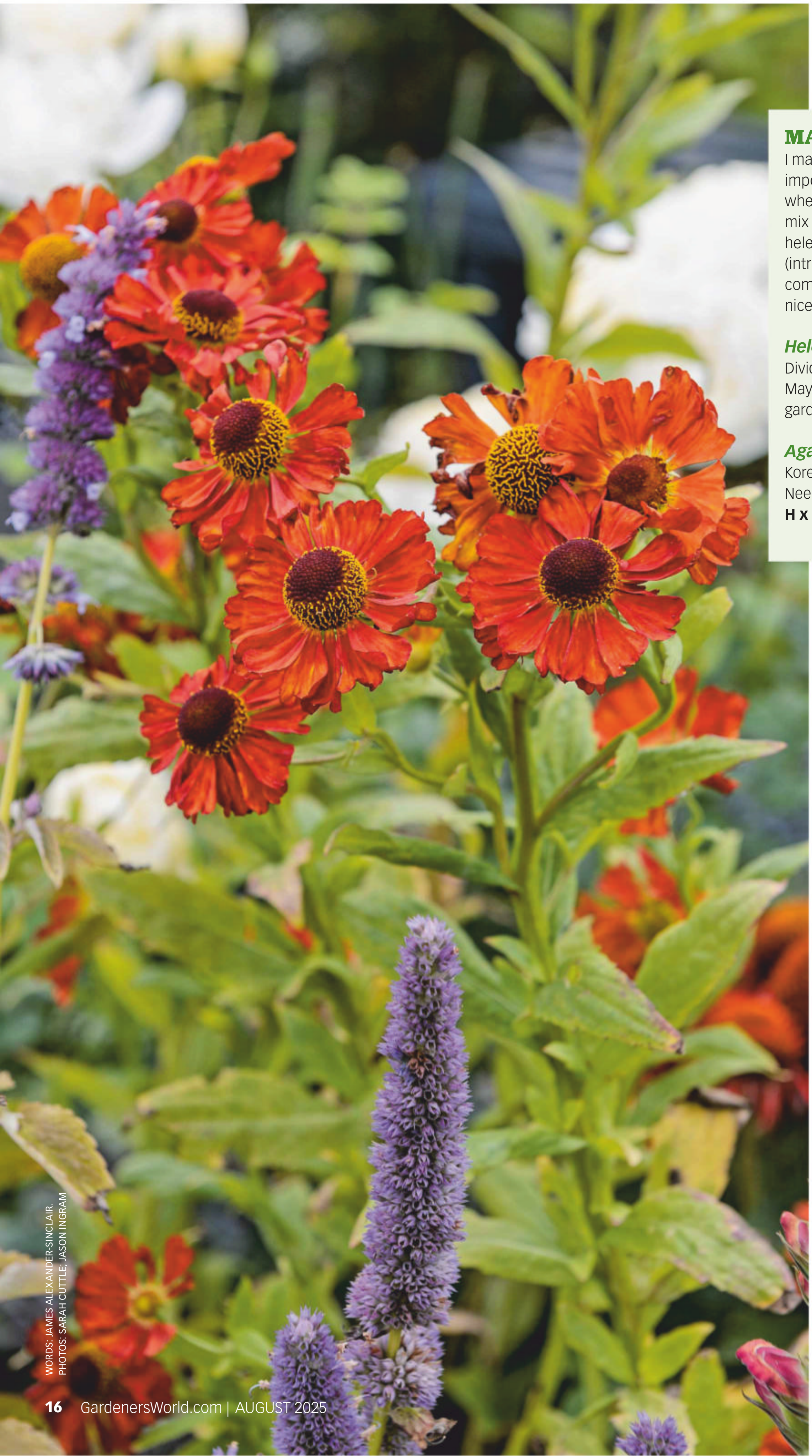
ONE BATTERY. MANY TOOLS.

Cut, mow, saw or clear around the garden with STIHL's AK System battery-powered tools. German engineering combined with powerful performance and just one battery which fits every tool.

Discover our range of premium garden tools at your nearest STIHL Approved Dealer or at **www.stihl.co.uk**

AK SYSTEM

BATTERY POWER. BY STIHL.



WORDS: JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR.
PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; JASON INGRAM

MADE FOR EACH OTHER

I may have said this before but it is important to think about flower shapes when combining plants. You need a good mix of the round and chunky (like the helenium) and the slim and elegant (introducing the agastache). In this combo, both shapes and colours work nicely. A perfect match.

***Helenium* 'Moerheim Beauty'**
Divide older plants in autumn or spring. May well need staking especially in windy gardens. **H x S** 1.25m x 60cm

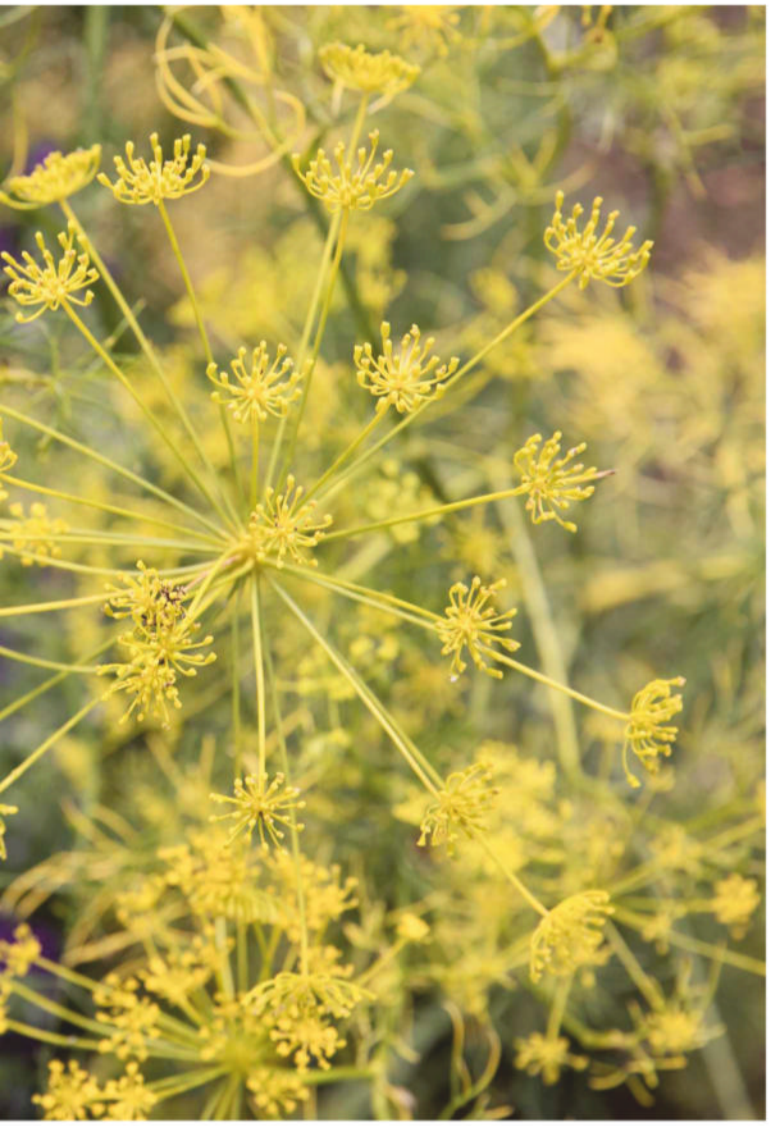
Agastache rugosa
Korean mint. Has good aromatic leaves. Needs full sunshine. Divide in spring.
H x S 1m x 40cm

A WELCOME GUEST

"Oooooh" I hear you say, "that looks exotic and interesting". It does but, if we strip off its Latin name and stand it up for full inspection, it is quickly revealed as a Mediterranean weed. But as the saying goes, one man's meat is another man's poison; what is weed to some is a valuable border plant to others. Luckily, we in the UK get the better end of the deal – it isn't invasive here – and it's a very elegant addition.

Ridolfia segetum

Sow seed under glass in early spring. Excellent cut flower. Good contrast with rounder, chunkier plants.
H x S 1.2m x 50cm



Gardeners' World offer
BEST BUYS!

SHOP AND SAVE 20%* online with Hayloft

Whether you've got your eye on a tulip mix for your pots, been checking out foxgloves or maybe just looking for a great deal, *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine* readers can save 20%* this month when shopping online with our partner Hayloft.

Based in Worcestershire, Hayloft is an established nursery that offers a wide range of unique and rare bulbs, perennials, annuals and shrubs, delivered to your door – a great reason to grow something new today.

EXPLORE THE RANGE AND ORDER AT:

hayloft.co.uk Enter code GWA25 at checkout

Please add £4.95 P&P to your order. Free for orders over £50

Terms & conditions *Offer excludes delivery and some products. Offer not valid with any other offer. Offer ends 31 August 2025. Please note your contract for supply of goods is with Hayloft, Manor Farm, Pensham, Worcs WR10 3HB. Add £4.95 postage – free for orders over £50. Full T&Cs available on request. All items are subject to availability. All orders will receive an order acknowledgement. We may send Hayloft gardening catalogues and emails in the future. If you prefer not to receive them, please call 01386 562999. Offer available to UK addresses only.

hayloft plants

We leave the place buzzin'
Over 14,800 species protected?
Must be World Land Trust
Be part of the solution
Visit worldlandtrust.org today
WORLD LAND TRUST
Saving land
Saving species

The Full Monty

After visiting gardens of all shapes and sizes around the world, **Monty** finds that plants don't always play a starring role in inspiring spiritual reflection

During the filming of *Monty Don's* *British Gardens*, across the 62 we visited, a certain type stood out. These were gardens that were essentially the stage or gallery for either artwork or elaborate ideas. Off the top of my head I would include Little Sparta, Crawick Multiverse and Plaz Metaxu as very obvious examples, with Chatsworth, Houghton Hall and Rousham including art as an essential element of the gardens and grounds. This tells us a lot about us British, and how we use and think about gardens. By far the dominant feature for the vast majority of gardeners are plants. I suspect for many gardeners this is an absurdly obvious tautology. Gardens, they say, are plants, and how you choose and use them defines the kind of garden and, indeed, gardening itself. Well, up to a point.

Historically, our deep love of garden plants is relatively new. The gardens at Stowe, which have embedded in them a strong political message, Rousham with its statues and temples, and many of the landscapes of Capability Brown, were creating, often on a vast scale, an Arcadian ideal that did not involve any particular interest in the specific plants used. Plants were the medium, but never the message.

Plaz Metaxu in Devon, made over the past 30-odd years by Alasdair Forbes, is perhaps the best modern example of plants – and the whole idea of a garden – serving an underlying text. In this case it is complicated and arcane, and I apologise if I am over-simplifying, but Plaz Metaxu means 'the place between', and the whole garden is a visualisation of the fluid half-world where conscious and subconscious exist. It is a liminal space and the word Alasdair uses a lot to describe it is 'porous'. The garden absorbs itself and you, you absorb it, and everything is changing all the time. The garden exists physically but that is only part of its existence. This is a far cry from growing sweetcorn or dahlias. I would guess it is a world away from the comfort zone of most British gardeners – including myself. But, although out of my depth, I find it fascinating and stimulating. The fascination stems from the whole reassessment of what a garden is or can be, not least because we in Britain tend to have such a fixed idea of what a 'good' garden might look like – or should look like.

Back in 2007, when we were filming *Around the World in 80 Gardens* in Mexico City, we visited the home of the great Mexican landscape architect and garden designer Luis Barragán. For me, this was a pilgrimage as I consider him one of the greatest 20th-century garden designers. Although modest in scale, it had all the characteristics of his work with painted walls, lots of idiosyncratic terracotta pots deliberately unplanted, and festoons of trailing green. We then went up onto his roof garden – it consisted of pink-painted walls, terracotta paving, and nothing else at all save for the sky (which Barragán insisted was an essential part of the garden) and a few distant trees on the horizon. "We can't film this," the director said, "because it is not a garden." However, we did eventually film it, and I firmly believe that it was as much a garden as Longmeadow – simply because Barragàn had said it was. And that is the key. A garden can be anything that we want it to be, even if – and I know that this is heresy to many people – it does not include a single plant.

> *"A garden can be anything we want it to be, even if it does not include a single plant"*

Perhaps a more accessible example is Japanese dry gardens, which often comprise only gravel, rock and moss. But these – like Plaz Metaxu, or the work of Charles Jencks, or the various sky gardens of James Turrell – use the elements of the garden as well as the garden itself as symbols and metaphors. Whenever I visit Rousham – which is never often enough because to my mind it is the greatest garden ever made – I am painfully aware that I am only 'reading' a fraction of what the 18th-century contemporary visitors would have clearly seen and understood from the various statues, groves and buildings.

Now, I have a garden happily filled to overflowing with plants. I love the physical process of raising and tending plants. They are a central part of my life. But I also love visiting gardens that explore all the subconscious and spiritual possibilities that gardens can evoke and enrich. We are very ready to talk about the virtues of sitting in the garden and being 'in nature' (horrible expression), but perhaps we should also open ourselves more to allowing the garden to be a conduit to a deeper and more mysterious part of our spiritual and creative selves.

Monty

PHOTO: MARSHA ARNOLD

BBC TWO **MONTY ON TV** Catch Monty and the *Gardeners' World* team on Friday nights this month – see TV listings – and savour the scent of summer at Longmeadow in our Summer Conversations podcast at **GardenersWorld.com/podcasts**

Just pay £5.95 postage

FREE* for every reader

30 winter-flowering pansies

WORTH £24.95

This collection of pretty pansies will provide a welcome splash of winter colour in borders and containers, whatever the weather. These three top-selling varieties will flower in winter while most other plants are dormant. The flowers are edible, and can even be crystallised and used as cake decorations.

The 30-plant collection comprises:

■ **Pansy Universal Mix** x 12
Bright, bold blooms in a range of sparkling colours.
Height x Spread 45cm x 45cm
Flowers Nov-Mar

■ **Pansy Waterfall Mixed** x 12
Large scented flowers on trailing stems, perfect for hanging baskets.
H x S 30cm x 30cm **F** Feb-Apr

■ **Pansy Frizzle Sizzle Mix** x 6
A rainbow of colours and frills, with a hint of pansy scent.
H x S 23cm x 30cm **F** Feb-Apr

Supplied as plug plants, approx. 3-6cm high

For more offers and details of how to order, see opposite page

Thompson & Morgan
Experts in the garden since 1855

More great offers on vibrant bedding

Polyanthus 'Firecracker'

Versatile and easy to grow, perfect for brightening up spring patio containers.
H x S 23cm x 23cm
F Mar-May
- 24 plug plants ~~£17.98~~ **£12.99** **SAVE £4.99** *(KB8243)*
- 48 plugs plants ~~£35.96~~ **£19.99** **SAVE £15.97** *(KB8244)*

Pansy Most Scented Mix

This exclusive, colourful mix offers scent even on the coldest days.
H x S 15cm x 20cm
F Feb-May
- 24 plug plants ~~£14.99~~ **£11.99** **SAVE £3** *(KB8151)*
- 48 plugs plants ~~£29.98~~ **£19.99** **SAVE £9.99** *(KB8152)*

Primrose Husky Mix

Vibrantly coloured, delicately scented blooms through to late spring.
H x S 20cm x 20cm
F Feb-Apr
- 24 plug plants ~~£11.99~~ **£9.99** **SAVE £2** *(KB8253)*
- 48 plug plants ~~£23.98~~ **£17.99** **SAVE £5.99** *(KB8254)*

Pansy Matrix Mix™

Holding their heads high, these compact, sturdy plants create a spectacular display.
H x S 20cm x 23cm
F Jan-May
- 36 plug plants ~~£11.99~~ **£10.99** **SAVE £1** *(KB8149)*
- 72 plug plants ~~£23.98~~ **£18.99** **SAVE £4.99** *(KB8150)*

Viola Sorbet Honeybee

Sure to make you smile, these bright, honey-coloured flowers have unique bee-like markings.
H x S 20cm x 23cm
F Feb-May
- 24 plug plants **£9.99** *(KB8394)*
- 48 plug plants ~~£19.98~~ **£17.99** **SAVE £1.99** *(KB8395)*

☎ **0844 573 6054**[†] **(quote code TM_GW198)**
thompson-morgan.com/TM_GW198

Just add £5.95 postage per order

Scan QR code to see more great offers

Gardeners' World offer
Complete this coupon and send with your payment to:
Thompson & Morgan, Dept TM_GW198, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU

Thompson & Morgan
Experts in the garden since 1855

Code: TM_GW198

Title Initial Surname
Address
Postcode
Tel Email[‡]

I enclose a cheque/PO for £__________ made payable to **T&M** with my name and address on the back (do not send stamps or cash)

Or charge my Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐

Card number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Start date ☐☐/☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐/☐☐ Card security code ☐☐☐
(Last 3 digits printed on signature strip)

Signature__________________ Date __________

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE		QTY	TOTAL
KH6930FFP	**30 FREE* winter-flowering pansies worth £24.95** **just pay £5.95 postage*	£5.95 postage	£5.95 postage	1	£5.95 postage
KB8243 KB8244	**Polyanthus Firecracker** x 24 ~~£17.98~~ **SAVE £4.99** **Polyanthus Firecracker** x 48 ~~£35.96~~ **SAVE £15.97**	£12.99 £19.99	£11.69 £17.99		
KB8151 KB8152	**Pansy Most Scented Mix** x 24 ~~£14.99~~ **SAVE £3** **Pansy Most Scented Mix** x 48 ~~£29.98~~ **SAVE £9.99**	£11.99 £19.99	£10.79 £17.99		
KB8253 KB8254	**Primrose Husky Mix** x 24 ~~£11.99~~ **SAVE £2** **Primrose Husky Mix** x 48 ~~£23.98~~ **SAVE £5.99**	£9.99 £17.99	£8.99 £16.19		
KB8149 KB8150	**Pansy Matrix Mix™** x 36 ~~£11.99~~ **SAVE £1** **Pansy Matrix Mix™** x 72 ~~£23.98~~ **SAVE £4.99**	£10.99 £18.99	£9.89 £17.09		
KB8394 KB8395	**Viola Sorbet Honeybee** x 24 **Viola Sorbet Honeybee** x 48 ~~£19.98~~ **SAVE £1.99**	£9.99 £17.99	£8.99 £16.19		
SUBSCRIBERS Insert discount code here (see **Subscriber Benefits** on p25)					
				TOTAL	£

BBC Gardeners' World Magazine (published by Immediate Media Co Ltd) would like to send you special offers and promotions. You can unsubscribe at any time – for details of how to do this, please see our privacy policy, which can be viewed at immediate.co.uk/privacy-policy. Please tick here if you would like to receive these ☐. *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine* is published by Immediate Media Co Ltd on behalf of BBC Studios (the commercial arm of the BBC). We would like to send you *BBC Gardeners' World*-related promotions, content and offers from BBC Studios. Your information will be used in accordance with the BBC Studios privacy policy, which can be viewed at www.bbcstudios.com/privacy. [‡]Please tick here if you would like to hear from us by email ☐.

Terms and conditions Offer closes 15 September 2025. Items despatched from August 2025 onwards. Please note your contract for supply of goods is with Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich IP8 3BU. Terms and conditions available on request. All offers subject to availability. All height and spread sizes indicate full grown sizes and not size supplied. We reserve the right to substitute varieties if necessary. Images for illustration purposes only. Savings are based on multiples of the cheapest pack size. Regretfully we are unable to ship live plants to the following areas: HS, IV41-IV49, IV51, IV55-56, KW15-KW17, PA34, PA41-48, PA60-PA78, PA80, PH40-PH44, TR21-TR25, ZE1-ZE3. We are also unable to ship seeds or plants to EU countries and Northern Ireland. [†]Calls cost 7p/minute plus your network access charge.

Expert's choice Fuchsias

For hardy garden fuchsias that survive winter you need to go for an H4. **Graham Rice** explains all and picks his favourites

Hands up everyone who's familiar with the Royal Horticultural Society's system of hardiness ratings? Thought not. But it's simple, really. The RHS rates plants according to how hardy they are – how likely they are to survive winter in the UK. There are seven levels, from H1 to H7. So, what's the difference?

Plants rated as H1, the most tender tropicals, will only survive in greenhouses heated all year round. At the other end of the scale, plants rated H7 will sail through winters colder than ours unscathed. But fuchsias fall under two different ratings, so how does this help with them?

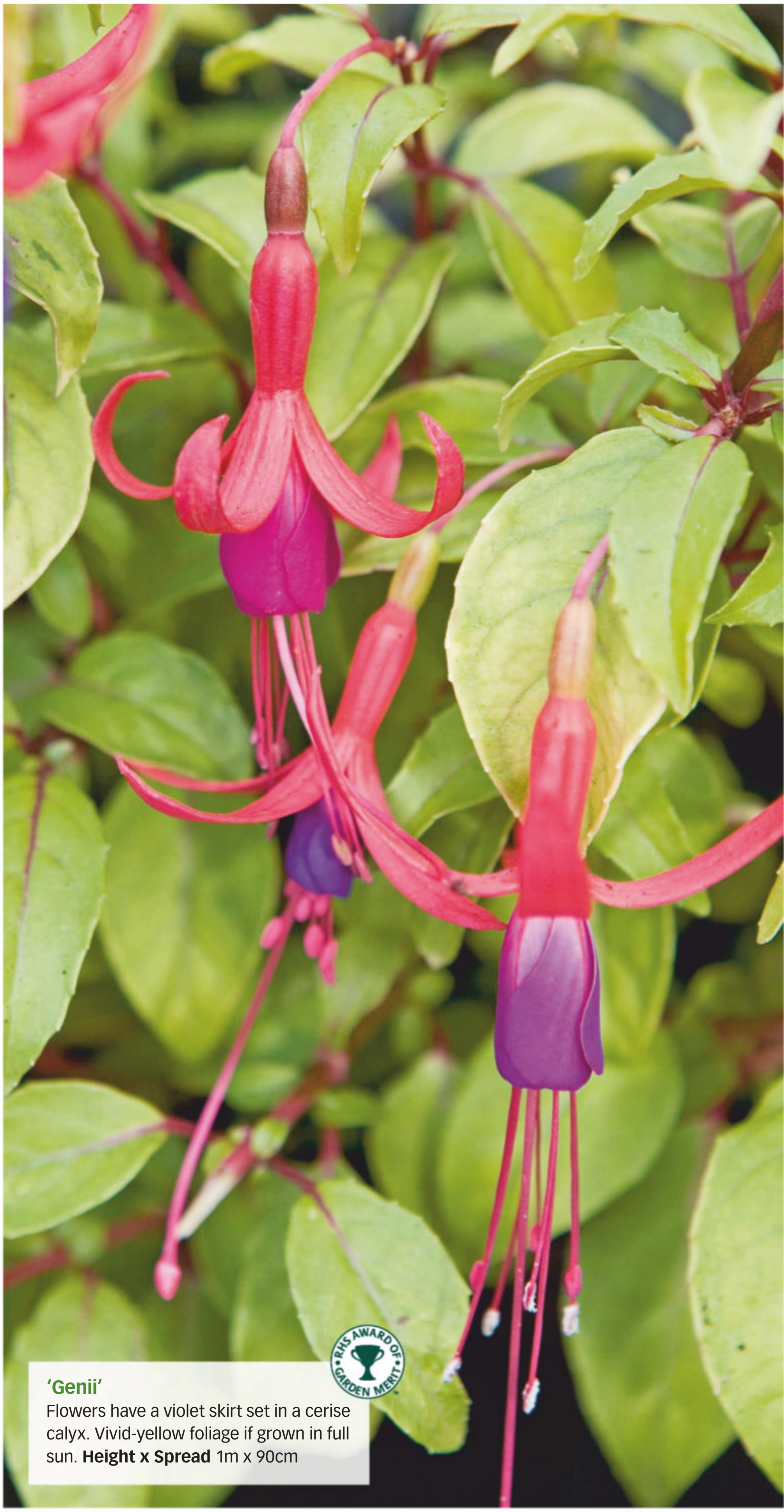
Fuchsia varieties rated as H4 – "hardy in an average winter" – will survive an average winter outside anywhere except the coldest northern peaks and valleys. These are the 'hardy fuchsias'. Even if the top growth is killed to ground level in winter, they'll ordinarily sprout again in spring. Fuchsias that are rated as H3 – "hardy in an unheated greenhouse or mild winter" – will not usually survive the winter outside unless planted in unusually sheltered, free-draining sites.

I'm telling you all this because you'll find the hardiness ratings on plant tags in garden centres, in catalogues and on nursery websites. So, if you're happy to buy new fuchsias every spring, then include varieties rated as H3; if you want your fuchsias to come back year after year, then look for varieties rated H4. Simple as that.

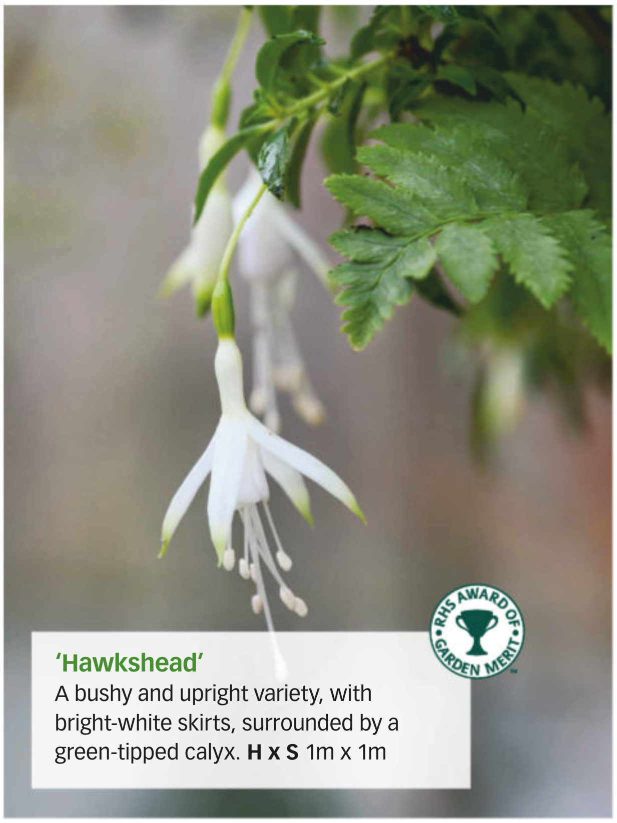
Care

- Plant in rich but free-draining soil that rarely dries out, in a sheltered garden or against a sunny fence or wall, as with other H4 hardiness-rated plants.
- Mulch in late autumn as frost protection, to provide long-term feed and to conserve summer moisture.
- Cut back dead growth in spring. If the plant is badly damaged cut to near soil level.

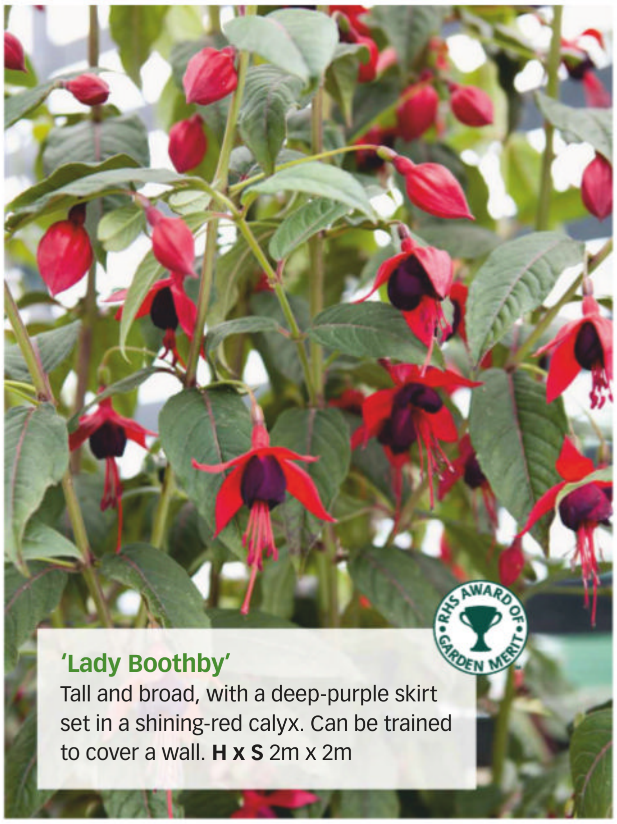
Where to buy ashwoodnurseries.com, 01384 401996; crocus.co.uk, 01344 578000; victoriananursery.co.uk, 01233 740529



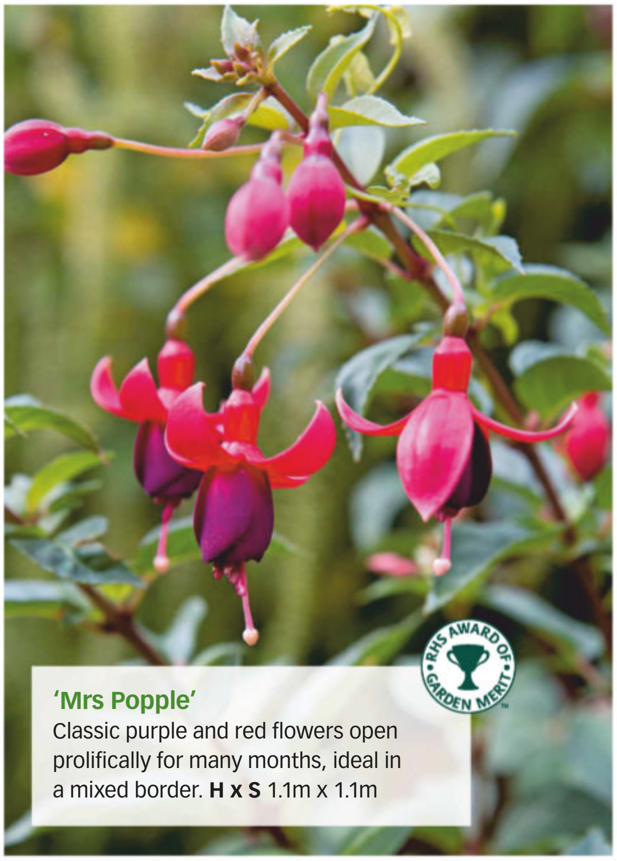
'Genii'
Flowers have a violet skirt set in a cerise calyx. Vivid-yellow foliage if grown in full sun. **Height x Spread** 1m x 90cm



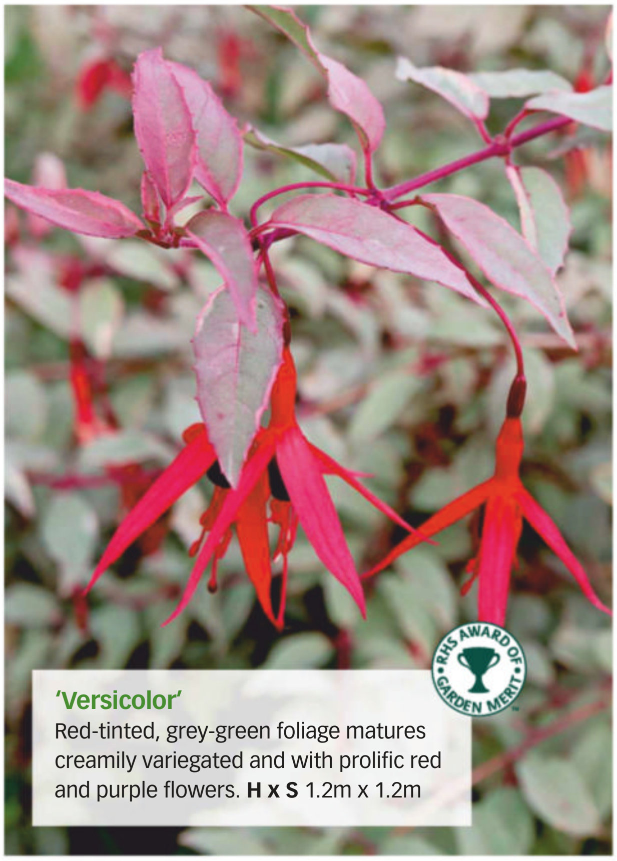
'Hawkshead'
A bushy and upright variety, with bright-white skirts, surrounded by a green-tipped calyx. **H x S** 1m x 1m



'Lady Boothby'
Tall and broad, with a deep-purple skirt set in a shining-red calyx. Can be trained to cover a wall. **H x S** 2m x 2m



'Mrs Popple'
Classic purple and red flowers open prolifically for many months, ideal in a mixed border. **H x S** 1.1m x 1.1m



'Versicolor'
Red-tinted, grey-green foliage matures creamily variegated and with prolific red and purple flowers. **H x S** 1.2m x 1.2m

Hardy fuchsias

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pruning			🟩	🟩								
Flowering						🟪	🟪	🟪	🟪	🟪		

PHOTOS: ALAMY/THRILLERFILLERSPILLER; SARAH CUTTLE; JASON INGRAM

Special subscriber offer

Join *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine* today

Subscribe now and pay only **£24.50 every 6 issues**†
- **saving 42%** on the shop price

BBC SPECIAL SUBSCRIBER EDITION
AUGUST 2025
GARDENING MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR
Gardeners' World
Taste of the tropics
Exotic plant guide
Urban jungle inspiration
Style from St Lucia
INSIDE YOUR ISSUE
MONTY on the power of scent
FRANCES keeps the summer garden in shape
Get composting in just one metre
Grow food and flowers side by side
Nursery tips from the growers
ARIT shares design secrets
Aquatic house plant style
SAVE 42% on the shop price
Subscriber CLUB BENEFITS
Exotic oleander standards
Unlock great savings with our partner discounts
Save up to £30.98 on fragrant daphnes
SUBSCRIBER-ONLY OFFERS
An English wine estate experience

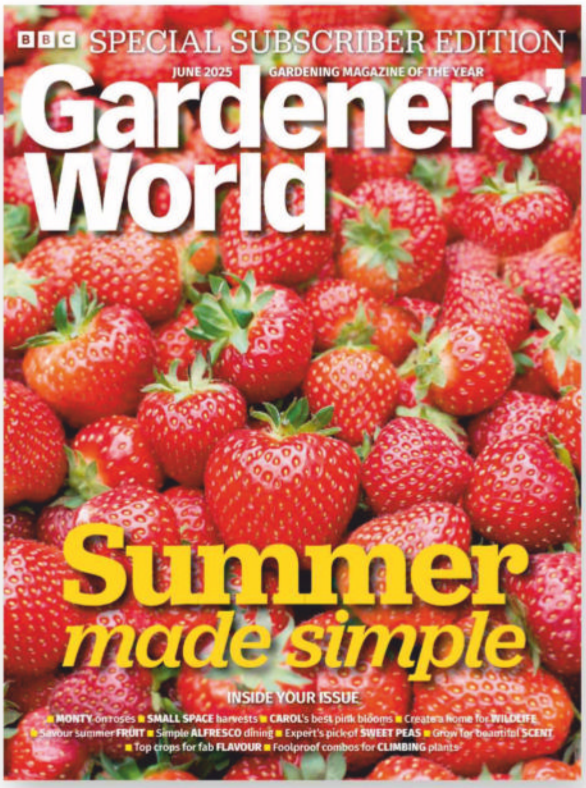
Offer ends **1 October 2025**

2 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE GWNP25

Visit buysubscriptions.com/GWNP25
Call 03330 162123* and quote code **GWNP25**

SCAN ME

Free UK delivery **Money back guarantee** **Worldwide delivery** **Secure online payments**


BBC SPECIAL SUBSCRIBER EDITION
JUNE 2025
GARDENING MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR
Gardeners' World
Summer made simple
INSIDE YOUR ISSUE
MONTY on roses ■ SMALL SPACE harvests ■ CAROL's best pink blooms ■ Create a home for WILDLIFE
Savour summer FRUIT ■ Simple ALFRESCO dining ■ Expert's pick of SWEET PEAS ■ Grow for beautiful SCENT
■ Top crops for fab FLAVOUR ■ Foolproof combos for CLIMBING plants

BBC SPECIAL SUBSCRIBER EDITION
JULY 2025
GARDENING MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR
Gardeners' World
Summer flowers special
Lift the mood with colour
Winning plant combinations
Breezy blooms for your borders
INSIDE YOUR ISSUE
MONTY on cut flowers ■ How to get WATER WISE ■ FRANCES keeps the blooms going ■ Help WILDLIFE in one metre ■ SHADE garden inspiration ■ Get the most from SALADS ■ ALAN's top greenhouse tips ■ Dramatic MEADOW planting

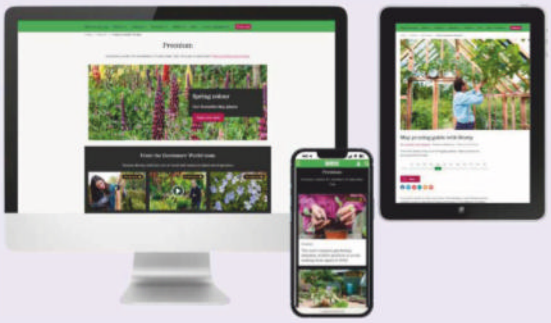
Gardeners' World magazine Subscriber CLUB

Experience more as a *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine* Subscriber Club member with:

1 FREE delivery

2 GardenersWorld.com Premium

Access special subscriber-only content at **GardenersWorld.com**



3 Exclusive money-saving offers, competitions and discounts

4 GW Live events to enjoy discounted tickets and promotional offers

---

†This offer is only open to new UK customers subscribing to *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine* by recurring payment. The closing date for this offer is 1 October 2025. Pay £24.50 every 6 issues, saving 42% on the usual shop price. You may cancel at any time and receive a full refund on any outstanding issues by contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may also be required. We reserve the right to reject or cancel subscriptions during the trial period for that magazine or any other magazine in the Immediate portfolio. Prices are discounted from the full UK subscription price and include P&P. Standard UK subscription price: £84.24 / Europe and Republic of Ireland: €118 / Rest of the World: US$166 / USA and Canada: US$143.88 / Australia and New Zealand: A$180.*UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). Outside of free call packages, call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 65p per minute. For overseas subscriptions, call +44 (0) 1604 973731. Please visit buysubscriptions.com/contact for customer service opening hours.

2 for 1 Gardens

BBC
Gardeners' World magazine
2 FOR 1 GARDENS
2025
REUSABLE CARD valid until 2 April 2026
Inspired Villages

Family favourites

With the school holidays in full swing, there are lots of family-friendly **2 for 1 Gardens** to explore this summer - here's just a small selection

Get lost in paradise

SAVE £13

Glendurgan Garden near Falmouth is home to a vast array of exotic and spectacular plants, which thrive in the mild Cornish climate – from giant-leaved gunneras to towering bamboos. There is also a beach at the far end of the valley, looking out across the Helford River. Adventurers young and old will enjoy the huge maze, which has been perplexing visitors for nearly 200 years. But if you're not up to the challenge, it's equally entertaining to take a seat on the sloping valley sides and watch others puzzling their way around. **OFFER Garden: 2 for 1 £13**, single reduced to £6.50. **nationaltrust.org.uk/glendurgan**

SAVE £19.95

Britain in miniature

Enjoy a world of nostalgic escapism at **Babbacombe Model Village & Gardens** in Devon. Full of humour and charm, the fascinating miniature scenes portray British life and culture through the decades, with iconic landmarks such as Stonehenge and *The Great British Bake Off* Tent. You might even spot the mini version of one of our other **2 for 1 Gardens** – Anne Hathaway's Cottage. There's also a well-tended array of tiny trees and other small, colourful plants within the displays, set within 4.5 acres of gardens. **OFFER: Model village: 2 for 1 £19.95. model-village.co.uk**

PHOTOS: BRIAN & NINA CHAPPLE; NATIONAL TRUST/JOHN MILLER, HUGH MOTHERSOLE

SAVE UP TO £14

Where the wild things are

If you're visiting the Lake District this summer, make a beeline for the richly planted gardens at **Sizergh**, near Kendal. The wildflower bank will be buzzing with pollinators, while the mown paths in the orchard meadow are perfect for little explorers. In the stumpery, the four national collections of ferns growing among the upturned tree stumps create a lush and mysterious fairytale landscape.

There are also lots of child-friendly activities during the Summer of Play, including a wild play trail through the woodland with rope swings, climbing walls and balance beams.

OFFER House & garden: 2 for 1 £14. Garden: 2 for 1 £10. nationaltrust.org.uk/sizergh

SAVE UP TO £16

Natural selection

Set in magnificent Aberdeenshire countryside, **Crathes Castle** is home to an eight-acre walled garden. This is divided into eight sections, each with its own distinct character. The borders are full of colour and scent all summer, and in the evolution garden you can discover how plants developed over time.

You can choose from six nature trails and look out for wildlife such as buzzards and red squirrels along the way. Kids can also explore the Wild Wood Adventure Play, with its slides and zip wire (£4.50 per child).

OFFER Castle & garden: 2 for 1 £16. Garden: 2 for 1 £7. nts.org.uk/crathes

SAVE £13

Woodland wanderer

Offering sweeping views across the Weald of Kent, **Riverhill Himalayan Gardens** are full of fun and adventures, with a fragrant rose walk, magical rock garden and a playground to explore. Across the summer you can join a series of fun drop-in activities, from marionette-making to fabric flowers.

In the woodlands there are giant trees, swings, secret paths and dens to build. You can also get lost in the fiendishly tricky hedge maze, then climb 'Mini Everest' to find the perfect picnic spot with panoramic views.

But what makes this garden truly unique is its resident yeti, who can sometimes be spotted roaming the woods.

OFFER Garden: 2 for 1 £13, single reduced to £6.50.
riverhillgardens.co.uk

2 for 1 Gardens at your fingertips...

Gardeners' World magazine
Over 380 gardens to visit
2 FOR 1 GARDENS
card & guide 2025
Gardeners' World magazine
2 FOR 1 GARDENS
2025

If you missed our May issue with the **2 for 1 Gardens card & guide**, you can still buy it at **magsdirect.co.uk/gwmay**.

Then download our **2 for 1 Gardens app*** to browse gardens to visit. Simply search **Gardeners' World 2 for 1 Gardens** in the Apple App Store or Google Play store. Use the unique code from inside your guide to **activate** your **digital 2 for 1 Gardens card**.

You can also get more inspiration for your garden visits at **GardenersWorld.com/gardens**

Before visiting a garden remember to check its website for opening and closing times as they can vary

*YOU MAY USE THE 2 FOR 1 PRINTED CARD OR APP FOR ADMISSION ONLY ONCE PER GARDEN, PER DAY. YOU CANNOT USE THE PRINTED CARD AND DIGITAL CARD AT THE SAME VENUE ON THE SAME DAY.

Keep deadheading repeat-flowering roses to encourage more blooms, but with hip-bearers leave the spent flowers to form fruits

> “When I walk into our greenhouse the smell is so comforting, one that tells me I’m in the right place and where I belong”

PHOTO: JASON INGRAM

Take a deep breath

As the evocative aromas of summer fill the garden, **Monty** explores the role scent plays in our lives, gardens and memories

A few years ago I was in Greece with friends visiting a garden that I'd been working on. It was spring, and the wisteria in the garden was in full flower and at its very best. As we walked into the garden the others all stopped, instantly captured by a beautiful perfume – they were all bathing in the fragrance of the wisteria. I breathed in deeply too and smelled absolutely nothing.

That was the moment I realised I'd never once smelled wisteria, and that I can't smell it at all – which made me wonder about the role of scent more generally. With this realisation it dawned on me that in all my gardening life, I have never planted a single plant for virtue of its fragrance. There are plants I know I can smell, like jasmine and sweet peas, but I have wondered if I can smell the full aroma, or just a part of it. I also know there are scents, usually strong ones, that I enjoy – like newly mown grass and the wonderful fragrance of dry ground after it has rained, and the leafy smell you get when you pick up soil from woodland.

Sweet nostalgia

Scent is tied to the oldest part of the brain, the same area that governs memory, so it's no surprise that when we smell something it often brings a memory to the surface. For example, when I breathe in the aroma of leather and linseed oil I instantly recall my childhood cricket matches. Those two scents – the leather of the ball and the linseed oil used on bats – take me straight back to being eight or nine years old, beyond excited at the thought of playing a game of cricket in the garden. Sweet peas have a similar effect, summoning up childhood summers of picking bunches for the house and their delicate fragrance filling the kitchen. As we have no control over our brain function, these evocative scents tied with memories can often catch us off guard.

A particular favourite is the smell of a greenhouse. When I was growing up in Hampshire in the 1950s and '60s, we had a Victorian greenhouse built by my great-grandfather in 1870. It hadn't changed at all since it was constructed and was heated by huge cast-iron pipes. It smelt of what I now know is pelargoniums, but also of wooden seed trays with soil that was sifted from leaf mould and topsoil. Some 60 years later, I can still remember that fragrance, and when I walk into our propagating greenhouse here at Longmeadow the same smell hits me. The smell is so familiar and comforting, one that tells me I'm in the right place and where I belong. On the one hand, it connects me to the past, but on the

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; JASON INGRAM

'Matucana' is one of the strongest-smelling sweet pea varieties

> *"Sweet peas summon up childhood summers of picking bunches for the house"*

After drying, lavender retains its aroma for scenting your home

Run your hand along a rosemary stem, then raise it to your nose and breathe in

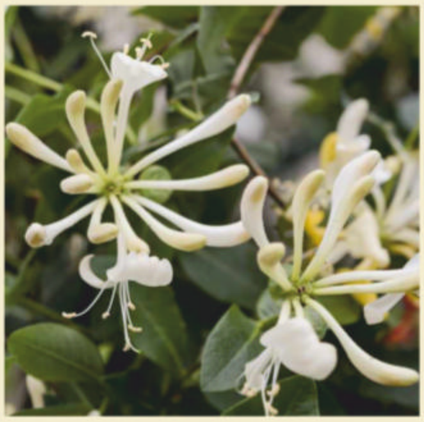
Best summer blooms for big fragrance

Sweet peas Sow seeds in autumn or spring, then plant out in mid-April, into rich, free-draining soil, with supports for them to climb up. Water regularly.

Jasmines There are summer and winter-flowering varieties, as well as tender types suitable for growing indoors.

Lavenders These evergreen shrubs love very free-draining soil in full sun. Bees adore their fragrant flowers.

Lilies Tougher than they look, check your variety's needs then plant in a border or container. Watch out for lily beetles.



Honeysuckles Summer-flowering, climbing types need lots of space and trellis to help them up a fence, wall or pergola.

Monty created this seating area as a spot to best enjoy fragrant plants such as lilies and sweet peas

other, it connects me immediately to the present. Nothing does that quite like scent.

Another fragrance that brings back fond memories is honeysuckle, not necessarily in the garden, but when driving around the countryside. It takes me right back to being a teenager, riding my motorbike to the pub, down little country lanes rich with the scent of honeysuckle and hedgerows.

> *"Honeysuckle takes me back to riding down country lanes rich with scent"*

Honeysuckle, like many plants that release their oils in the evening – such as jasmine and nicotiana – emits the strongest scent as dusk falls. This timing is no accident but an evolutionary system to attract nighttime pollinators, usually moths.

Stimulate all senses

I think if we gardeners have a fault, it's that we get hung up on process and doing things the right way, when really we should focus on why we are gardening, the pleasure we get from it and the richness it brings to our lives. Gardening is about memories, creating new things and expression.

So, when you're planning your garden, don't just think about what looks good – also consider what smells good too. Which plants will fill your summer evenings with fragrance? Which will bring back memories or create new ones? How you do it doesn't matter if it's achieving the right result. And that result can be a beautiful fragrance, a beautiful sight, or a beautiful sound. That, for me, is the centre of gardening. Not perfection, but connection to memory, to place and to ourselves. A garden that engages all your senses is a garden that truly nourishes the soul. ☐

Watch Monty on TV in the latest episodes of *Gardeners' World*. See listings for details.

Listen to Monty on how scent plays an important part in gardening, in our Summer Conversations series at **GardenersWorld.com/podcast**

NEXT MONTH Monty shares the techniques he uses to make the most of colour at Longmeadow

PHOTOS: JASON INGRAM

Canal & River Trust

Nature
is in crisis
Your canal
is its lifeline
A haven for vital pollinators
A safe nursery for cygnets
A home for threatened water voles

Habitat loss, invasive species and climate change are putting devastating pressure on the wildlife we love. Now, nearly one in six species is endangered - and the number is rising. Our canals have become a lifeline for nature. But these habitats don't look after themselves. Without constant care, the wildlife disappears - quietly, and sometimes for good.

Will you give today, so our expert teams can keep protecting these unique ecosystems?

Please donate today at canalrivertrust.org.uk/garden

It only takes a moment to donate: simply scan this QR code on the right with your camera phone.

Scan here: donate now

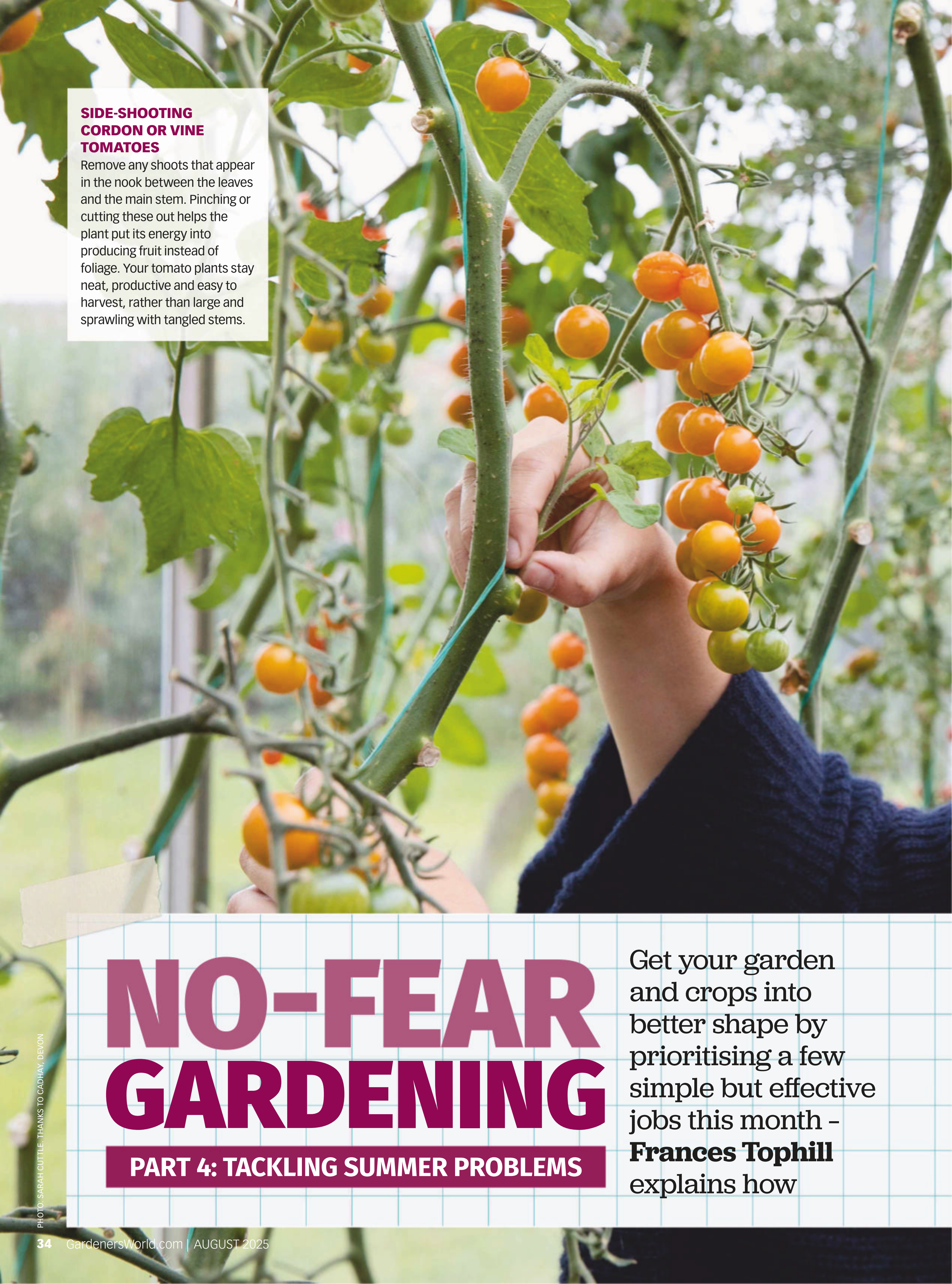
Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Canal & River Trust is a charity registered with the Charity Commission no. 1146792 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales no. 07807276.

NO-FEAR GARDENING

PART 4: TACKLING SUMMER PROBLEMS

Get your garden and crops into better shape by prioritising a few simple but effective jobs this month – **Frances Tophill** explains how



SIDE-SHOOTING CORDON OR VINE TOMATOES

Remove any shoots that appear in the nook between the leaves and the main stem. Pinching or cutting these out helps the plant put its energy into producing fruit instead of foliage. Your tomato plants stay neat, productive and easy to harvest, rather than large and sprawling with tangled stems.

PHOTO: SARAH CUTTLE. THANKS TO CADHAY, DEVON

In the height of summer, although blooms may be burgeoning and scent is at its peak, challenges appear as the garden becomes untidy. But if you work on a few easy tasks, order can be restored.

With plants growing at full throttle, you may find that some elements look in need of a little neatening and control. Plants may begin to bend and flop as heavy flowers or fruits pull down their stems, while weeds (or plants that aren't wanted) will often be setting seed now, getting ready to spread.

In these hot summer days, there is also a prevalence of insect pests – aphids can multiply quickly on crops such as fruit trees, while cabbage white caterpillars can wreak havoc on brassicas. In the heat and drought of summer, many plants can also become stressed and suffer with disorders and nutritional deficiencies such as blossom end rot (mainly on tomatoes) or various mineral imbalances that usually lead to their leaves becoming pale or discoloured.

The best course of action is to work out what the priorities are. Sort the immediate or urgent problems first, and then start tackling jobs that will become a problem later if left and ignored.

This month, a timely trim and a little tidying can prolong the garden's glory for months into autumn, so they're a quick way to create a sense of order. The bigger jobs that really deal with problem areas can be tackled once the weather cools down in autumn.

But above all I'd say don't worry. One thing a garden always has is time. It's never finished, so any part of it that didn't go to plan this year, can be worked on and improved next year.

westland
BOOST
ALL PURPOSE
6 MONTH FEED
4x MULTI-ACTION
STRONGER ROOTS
GREENER FOLIAGE
HEALTHIER PLANTS
MORE BLOOMS
IDEAL FOR CONTAINERS AND BASKETS
westland
BOOST
ALL PURPOSE
LIQUID PLANT FEED
4x MORE BLOOMS*
MORE FRUITS & VEG GUARANTEED
PLANTSENSE™ technology
FOR ALL COMPOSTS & SOIL TYPES

Get 4x more blooms with Boost

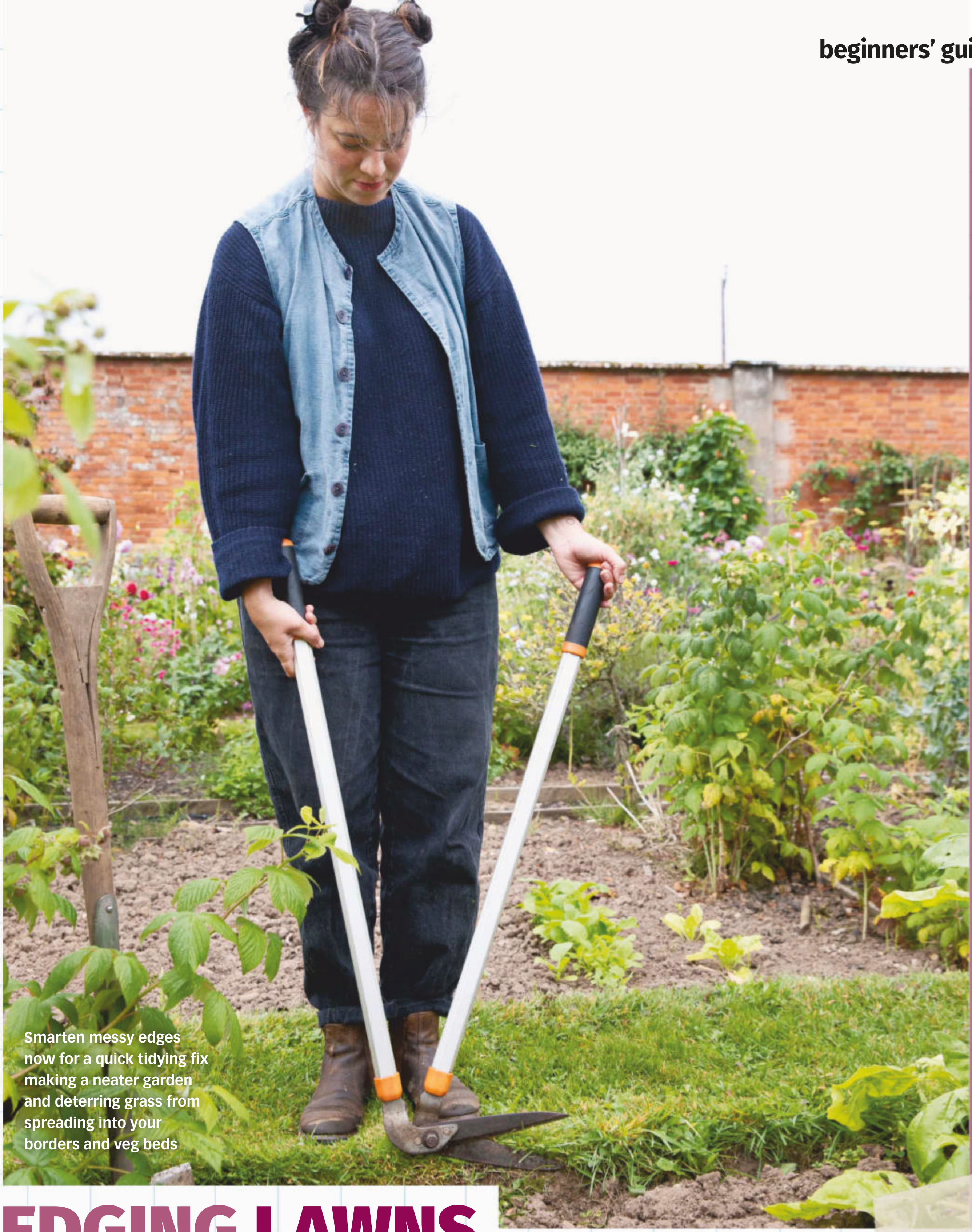
Give every container a Boost

Boost All Purpose Liquid Plant Feed, powered by PlantSense™ Technology, delivers 4x more* flowers than watering alone. Pair it with Boost All Purpose Multi-Action Granules, which offers a 4x formula that supports your plants at every stage of growth, and peat-free Boost All Purpose Compost, enriched with starter feed and Moisture Lock Technology™.

Scan me

westland give it your best

*bedding plants versus unfed



Smarten messy edges now for a quick tidying fix making a neater garden and deterring grass from spreading into your borders and veg beds

EDGING LAWNS

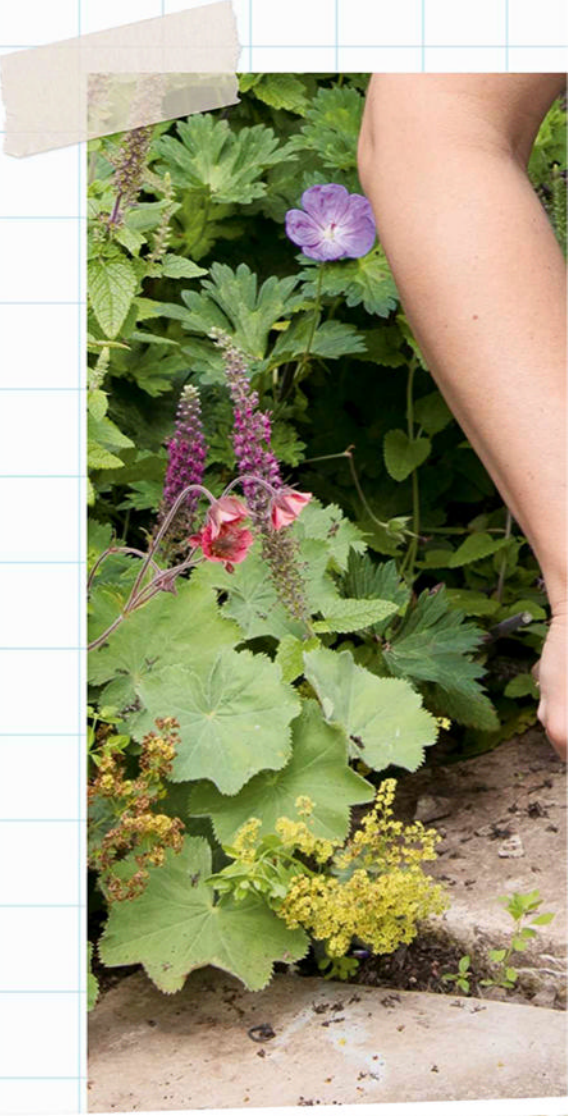
Without a defined edge that separates a border from the lawn, the grass will slowly spread in among your border plants. It makes maintenance easier and looks pleasing if you keep these two areas distinct and separate.

By far the easiest and cheapest way to create an edge is to dig it yourself. A dug edge, so there is a vertical drop defining the lawn, looks sharper and neater, while any grass-edge snipping you do will last longer, as grass that grows towards the border hits a void of air, rather than lovely soil where it can take root. Using a flat spade or edging iron, dig down along a string line or marked curve to create a dip of at least 10cm. You can then compost any turf you remove.

Once you have a defined edge, trim it regularly with edging shears. These have long handles, a vertical base blade that doesn't move, and a top blade that lifts and lowers as you move the handles. Keeping a straight back, work along the lawn edge clipping any grass overhanging your vertical drop. You don't have to pick up the clippings (they'll soon dry out and disappear), but it looks neater if you do. Add them to the compost heap, as they are full of nitrogen.

Edging shears are notorious for becoming blunt, so sharpen them regularly – but only the outer plane, so the inside blades cross right up against each other. Also oil the metal and mechanism regularly, and tighten the blades and handles if they become loose.

PHOTO: SARAH CUTTLE. THANKS TO CADHAY, DEVON



MESS MANAGEMENT

Summer is not the time to cut your garden plants back hard, but some tidying now will pay dividends. A little careful removal of weeds (plants in the wrong place), such as any that have started to take over, is worth doing. Trimming or staking flopping perennials will give neighbouring plants room to thrive. However, leave seedheads and spent stems undisturbed until spring wherever possible, so that insects have places to hibernate and hide over winter – some 'mess' is good for wildlife.

There are generally two peak flowering seasons in most gardens. These are spring/early summer (including bulbs) and then late-summer flowering, which usually starts around now. Most gardens experience a short lull in between. Cutting back those earlies like oriental poppies and lavender allows space for verbenas, rudbeckias, hylotelephiums and fellow late-comers to really stand out. You might even get a second flush of blooms on some of the early-flowering perennials.

Weed removal is an important part of tidying, and it's a good idea to do it before they set seed, especially with any vigorous annuals and biennials you don't want, be it shepherd's purse, teasels, chickweed, burdock, foxgloves or cleavers. With perennial weeds like dandelions, ground elder, bindweed, umbels and docks, you need to fork out all of the roots to stop them returning.

There are benefits to letting some wildflowers stay though, both for us and for wildlife – many provide food, pollen, egg-laying space, pretty flowers and even have medicinal properties. But when growing in among other plants, they have a tendency to take over the space. So I usually decide on a case-by-case basis whether to remove them.

BEST PLANTS TO TRIM IN AUGUST

For a seasonal prune:

- **Hebes**
- **Wisteria**
- **Strawberries**

For a second flush of flowers or new growth:

- **Alchemilla**
- **Astrantia**
- **Oregano**
- **Thyme**
- **Hardy geraniums**
- **Nepeta**
- **Oriental poppies**

SUMMER PESTS AND DISEASES

Keep a close eye on your plants, as spotting issues before they've become too serious means they're easier to resolve

1 **Cabbage caterpillars** – cover plants with micro-mesh netting to stop adults laying eggs. Also pick off any caterpillars and put them on a bird table.

2 **Blossom end rot** – this mainly affects tomatoes, causing damaged fruits. Regular feeding and watering can prevent it. Growing in the ground rather than containers may also provide more available water and nutrients.

3 **Aphids on fruit trees** – remove physically, spray with soapy water or use nematodes (natural aphid predators). Trim off any infestations as you prune.

4 **Mildew on courgettes** – this develops when plants are stressed, then get wet, so regular watering at the roots helps to prevent it. Remove any affected leaves to improve air flow.

5 **Fungus gnats in the greenhouse or home** – allow the top inch or two of compost to dry out between waterings, as these gnats love moisture.

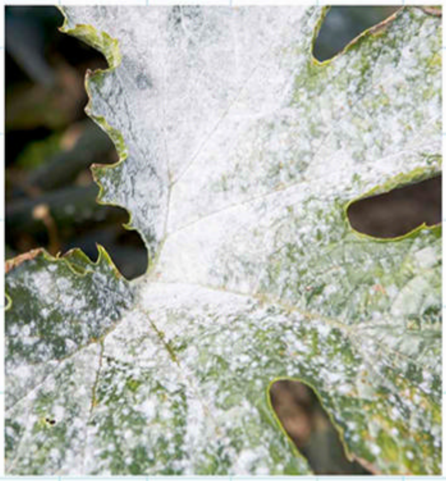
GW Fair Autumn (29-31 August)
See **Frances** at Audley End House, Essex. Book your tickets now – see p132.

Water and feed tomatoes regularly to help avoid blossom end rot

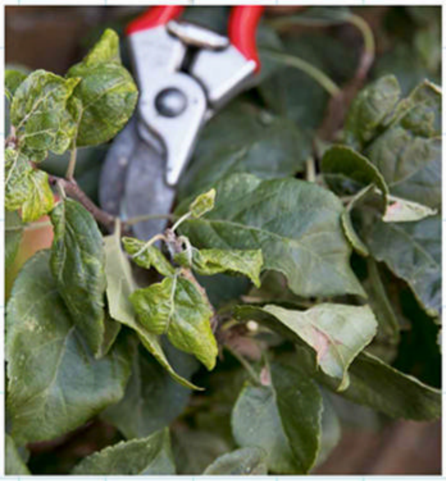
PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE. THANKS TO CADHAY, DEVON

Remove plants that have spread or self-seeded into paths, gravel or paved areas, to keep them looking tidy

Keep caterpillars off your brassicas with fine netting, and/or pick them off by hand



Water courgettes regularly to deter powdery mildew, and remove any affected leaves



Prune out aphid colonies on the shoot tips of fruit trees – look for distorted leaves

NEXT TIME In October, Frances offers money-saving tips, from propagating your own plants to making compost

The 5 senses of gardening... SIGHT

Arit Anderson explores how our senses affect the way we interact with our gardens. Here she explores the role sight plays in decision-making using colour and design

PHOTO: NEIL HEPWORTH

Being hands-on in the garden allows you to immerse yourself and appreciate the sights, sounds, smells, touch and tastes of your plot

Our world is communicated to us through five key senses, and it's these senses that are our navigators, allowing us to have a multiplicity of experiences. Whether it's guiding us away from danger or enrapturing us in the beauty and richness of our surroundings, we rely on our sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste to tell us what is happening. Over the coming months I will explore what each of these senses mean, and how we can, and do, use them to engage with our gardens.

When we pull back the curtains each day or enter our gardens, we are normally looking for visual clues to what is happening: scouting for new buds and flowers or checking what pest or disease may have arrived. How your garden looks is one thing, but have you stopped to think how it sounds, how it smells, how it feels and how it tastes? Taking all the senses through a garden is what gives it its magic.

It is estimated we perceive up to 80 per cent of all our information and what we learn through sight alone. I find the science of 'seeing' fascinating. The human eye is deemed to be the second-most complex organ after the brain, with over two million working parts! But how does what we see relate to how we enjoy our gardens?

Focus on design

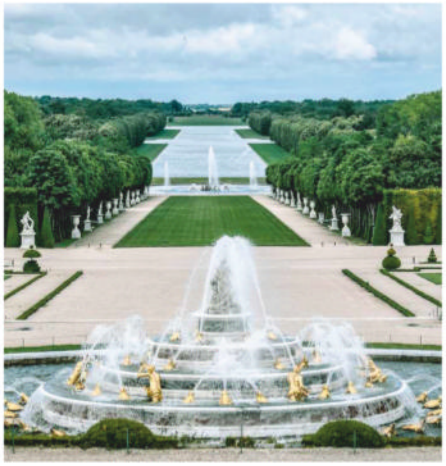
Firstly, the complexity of sight means that no person sees the same; secondly, what we enjoy in a space is completely subjective. However, in garden design there are principles that are deemed the bedrock of what makes a 'good' garden, and most of these rely on sight. These include unity to ensure all the elements complement each other, balance and scale so the garden feels in proportion, and rhythm, creating repetition and movement to draw the eye. These elements can create a fabulous experience if they all work together.

As a designer, you rely on drawing a visitor into a garden or landscape visually. This is especially true when it comes to show gardens, where a visitor is not able to be inside the garden nor immerse their other senses in the garden's atmosphere.

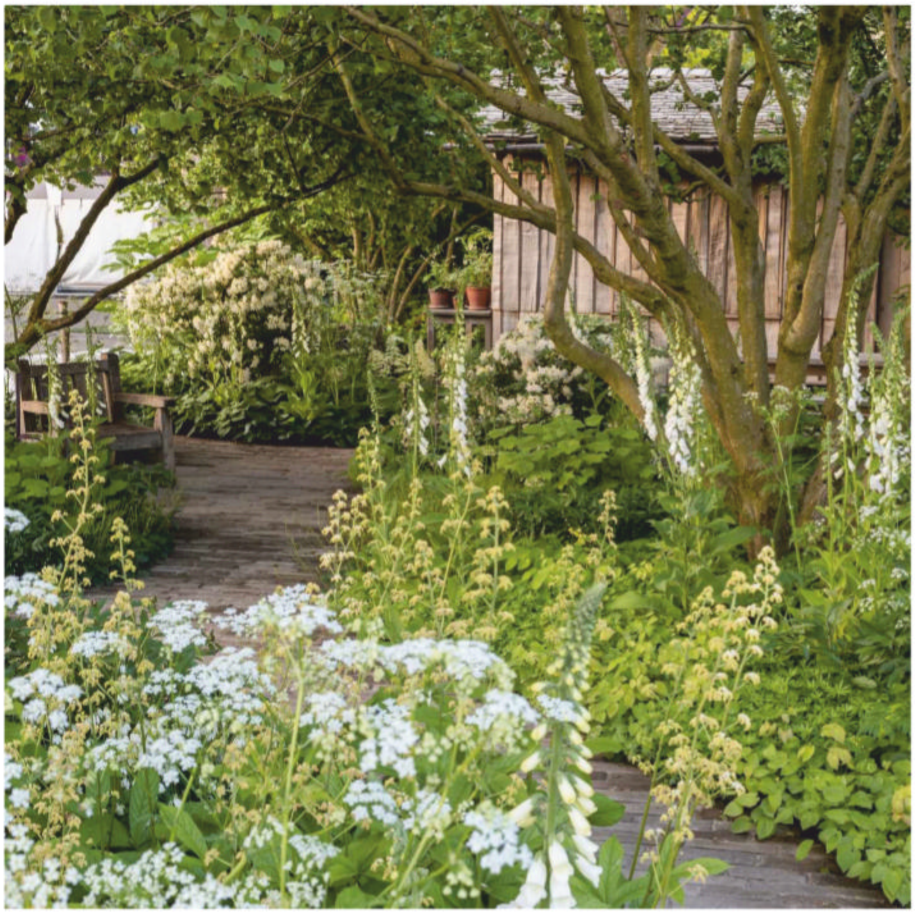
Optical illusions

Unity helps us to read a garden easily by achieving harmony through the repetition of elements, keeping materials limited to no more than three – for example, wood, stone and metal – and ensuring there is a flow to the space. I loved Tom Stuart Smith's 2024 RHS Chelsea Show Garden, which was a great example of the unity and simplicity of materials, and the planting palette had excellent rhythm and repetition. This type of visual language promotes relaxation as the design did not demand effort to process complex information.

Good garden design can create visual illusions that can help a space look bigger, longer or smaller by playing with

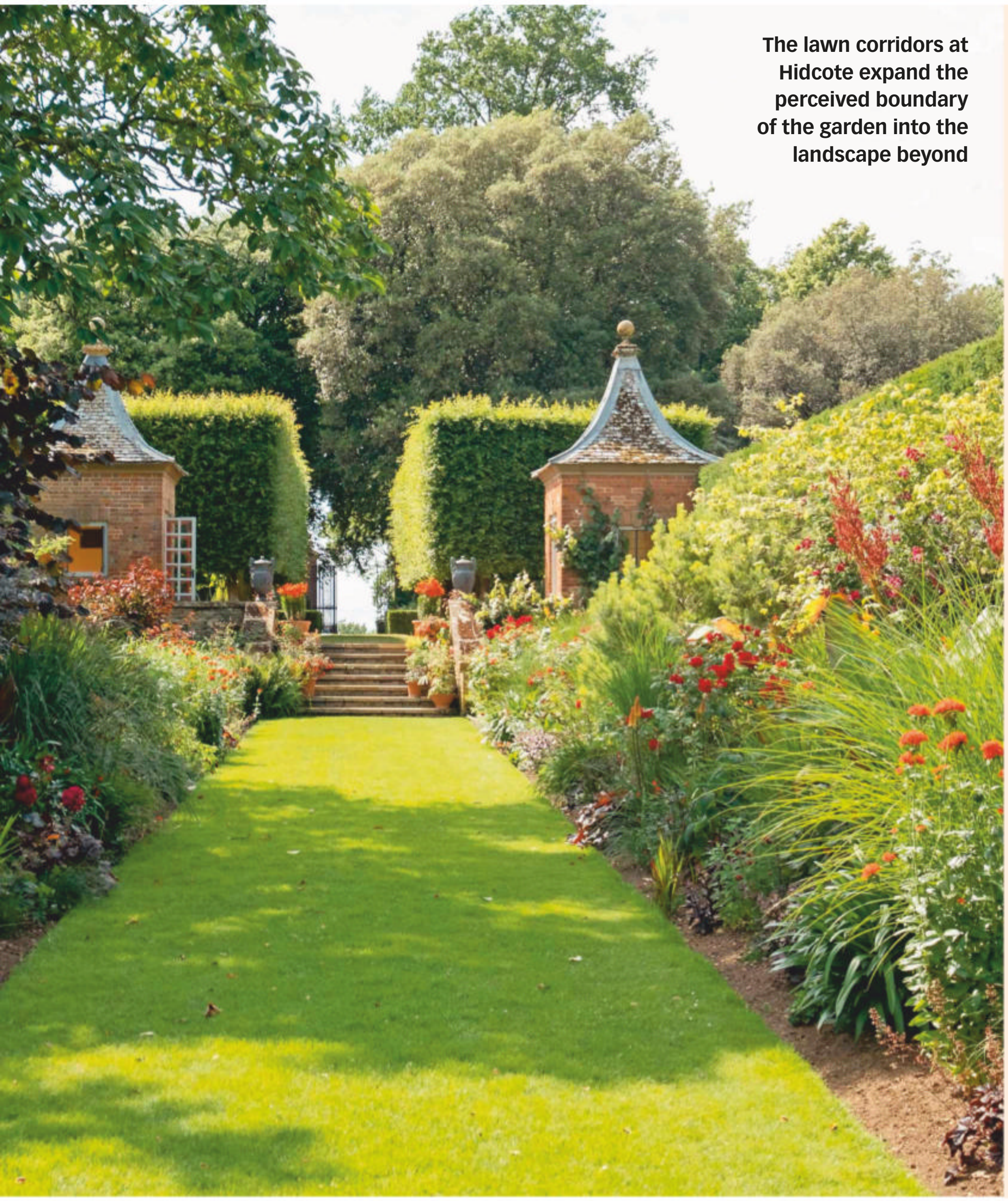


Perspective emphasises the grandeur and scale of the Gardens of Versailles



Tom Stuart Smith's 2024 Chelsea Show Garden uses a repeated palette of wood and light colours to draw people through and create a sense of calm

PHOTOS: ALAMY/LOIS GOBE; GETTY/STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN; JASON INGRAM/ MARIAN BOSWELL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS; RHS/NEIL HEPWORTH.



The lawn corridors at Hidcote expand the perceived boundary of the garden into the landscape beyond

Tricks of the eye

1 **Theme plants by colour or texture in large pots.** Lots of small containers can clutter a space and draw the eye down. Be bold! Large pots grouped in themes make a better statement and make small spaces feel larger. It also means less walking with heavy watering cans.

2 **Make a garden feel longer.** When laying paving, make sure the pavers or bricks are running vertically away from the house. Conversely, make a patio or path feel wider by laying the pavers horizontal to the house.

3 **Don't forget the sky.** Grow climbers up vertical structures such as pergolas, trellises and trees of varying heights to draw the eye up. This incorporates the space above the garden and can help with privacy so you won't be overlooked.

4 **Create depth and make a space feel bigger.** Use a mixture of large and fine leaves in borders, favouring the large ones at the front.

5 **Avoid large blank spaces and long, thin borders.** If there is nothing to look at or break the view, the eye will focus on the back fence. Create interest by introducing plants closer to the house, installing midway focal points or using hedges to make rooms that encourage the viewer to explore what's next.

Carefully positioned sculptures such as Sphinx by Marc Quinn, seen here, play with scale and perspective

> *“Unity helps us to read a garden easily by achieving harmony through repetition”*

proportion and focal points. The famous Gardens of Versailles conceived this long view by playing with perspective and drawing the eye into the horizon. The landscape and sky are also included in the design, which adds to the grandeur that Louis XIII envisioned.

Hidcote Manor Garden in the Cotswolds is an Arts & Crafts garden designed by Lawrence Johnston. When I visited some years back, what I really enjoyed were the corridors running from east to west and from north to south that were formed by Hidcote's famous garden rooms. These 'breathing spaces' between the smaller gardens near to the house connect the eye to the natural areas that meld with the rural landscape beyond.

Scale and proportion have been skilfully used in a private garden designed by Marian Boswall Landscape Architects. Here, Marc Quinn's white bronze statues act as focal points. In the front garden, the design plays with perspective and scale by having a huge sculpture beside a shed and gate. And at the back of the house, another sculpture sits at the end of a vista of cloud-pruned hedges – the figure looks far away and the vista seems long, but the sculpture is actually massive.

Organising colour

One of the biggest joys that a garden can give is colour. Our technicolour world relies on light levels, and so in a garden setting, where light levels change throughout the day, designing for colour is an important part of creating excitement and wonder, especially when it comes to flowers and foliage.

Renowned garden designer Gertrude Jekyll was a pioneer in colour theory, and used plants instead of paint to make bold colour statements. Jekyll had a deep understanding of the colour wheel and would use this to group hues together in her borders. She placed cool whites, blues and greens at the back of a garden – when dusk falls, these colours can be seen clearly in the distance, as they become luminous in the half-light – with bolder, brighter colours in the foreground, nearer to the house. This allowed them to be more visible during the day, then recede at nightfall.

Wheel rules

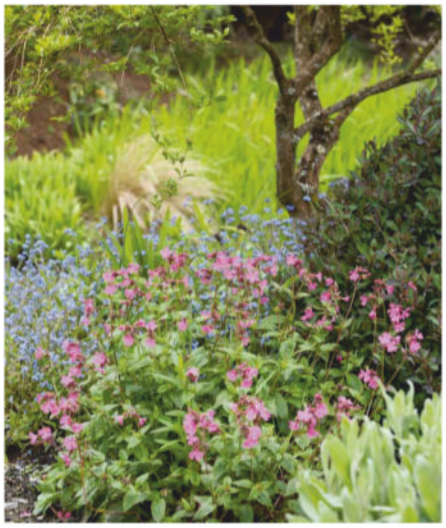
To be successful in having beautiful colourful borders, it's essential to understand the theory. Colours that sit next to each other on the colour wheel are described as 'harmonious', and when we see them together as flower and leaves in a border, it's very pleasing to look at and invokes a sense of calm. Then there are times when we want energy and vibrancy in our schemes, and this is achieved by choosing colours that sit on the opposite side of the wheel, for example, violet and yellow. These are the complementary colours, as their high contrast brings out the vibrancy of each other, thus enhancing the overall visual effect.

There are many gardens famous for their bold and dramatic use of colour, such as Great Dixter in East Sussex, Sissinghurst in Kent, Wildside in Devon, Monet's Garden in Giverny and Keukenhof in the Netherlands. These gardens are packed with bursts of colour, using trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs to provide magnificent visual feasts.

The saying 'the eyes are the window to the soul' means that our eyes reflect our inner emotions and thoughts. It's when we experience a garden in all its glory that we see the gardener's soul shine through. ☐

An array of colour combinations gives character to each of Sissinghurst's gardens

Monet created a vibrant palette of colours in his garden at Giverny


Red campion and forget-me-nots in a vibrant, complementary colour scheme

> *"Designer Gertrude Jekyll used plants instead of paints to make bold colour statements"*

PHOTOS: ALAMY/JONATHAN EDEN, MAURITIUS IMAGES; JASON INGRAM

NEXT TIME In the October issue Arit focuses on another of the five senses and looks at gardening for sound advertisement feature

What a relief

Ensure your grill is the only thing feeling the burn this summer with help from Gaviscon Double Action

You're probably out in your garden and enjoying firing up the barbecue while the warmer weather's here. But if you suffer from heartburn or indigestion, making the most of the seasonal fun isn't always easy – that's where Gaviscon Double Action can help.

Available in liquid, tablet and sachet form, Gaviscon Double Action offers dual relief. Not only does it neutralise excess stomach acid, but it also creates a protective barrier over the stomach contents, helping to prevent acid reflux (when acid escapes back up the oesophagus and causes heartburn).

Plus, it gets to work instantly and can last up to four hours, which is twice as long as other antacids*. So, whatever you're up to this summer, you can feel confident knowing Gaviscon Double Action will be there to help you enjoy more of the good times.

For more information on how Gaviscon Double Action can help you, visit **gaviscon.co.uk**

*For verification email: verify.uk@reckitt.com. Gaviscon Double Action Mint Flavour Chewable Tablets/Oral Suspension for heartburn and indigestion. Always read the label. RT-M-VtxpqD

Seven symptoms to look out for

It's important to be able to recognise the symptoms of heartburn and indigestion, so you know how to relieve them effectively when they appear. Here are seven you should keep an eye out for:

1 Stomach discomfort Indigestion is often caused by the acid in your stomach irritating the lining.

2 Stomach burning Irritation in the stomach area can also cause a burning sensation.

3 Acid reflux This is when stomach acid travels back up towards the throat, causing heartburn.

4 Chest burning One of the main symptoms of heartburn you may experience is a burning sensation in the middle of your chest.

5 Throat burning Acid can sometimes travel even higher, causing a burning feeling in your throat.

6 Bad breath Repeated episodes of acid reflux may make your breath smell, due to the stomach acid making its way back up.

7 Sour taste The stomach acid can leave an unpleasant sour taste in your mouth.

GAVISCON
DOUBLE ACTION
250ml
24
MINT FLAVOUR Chewable Tablets

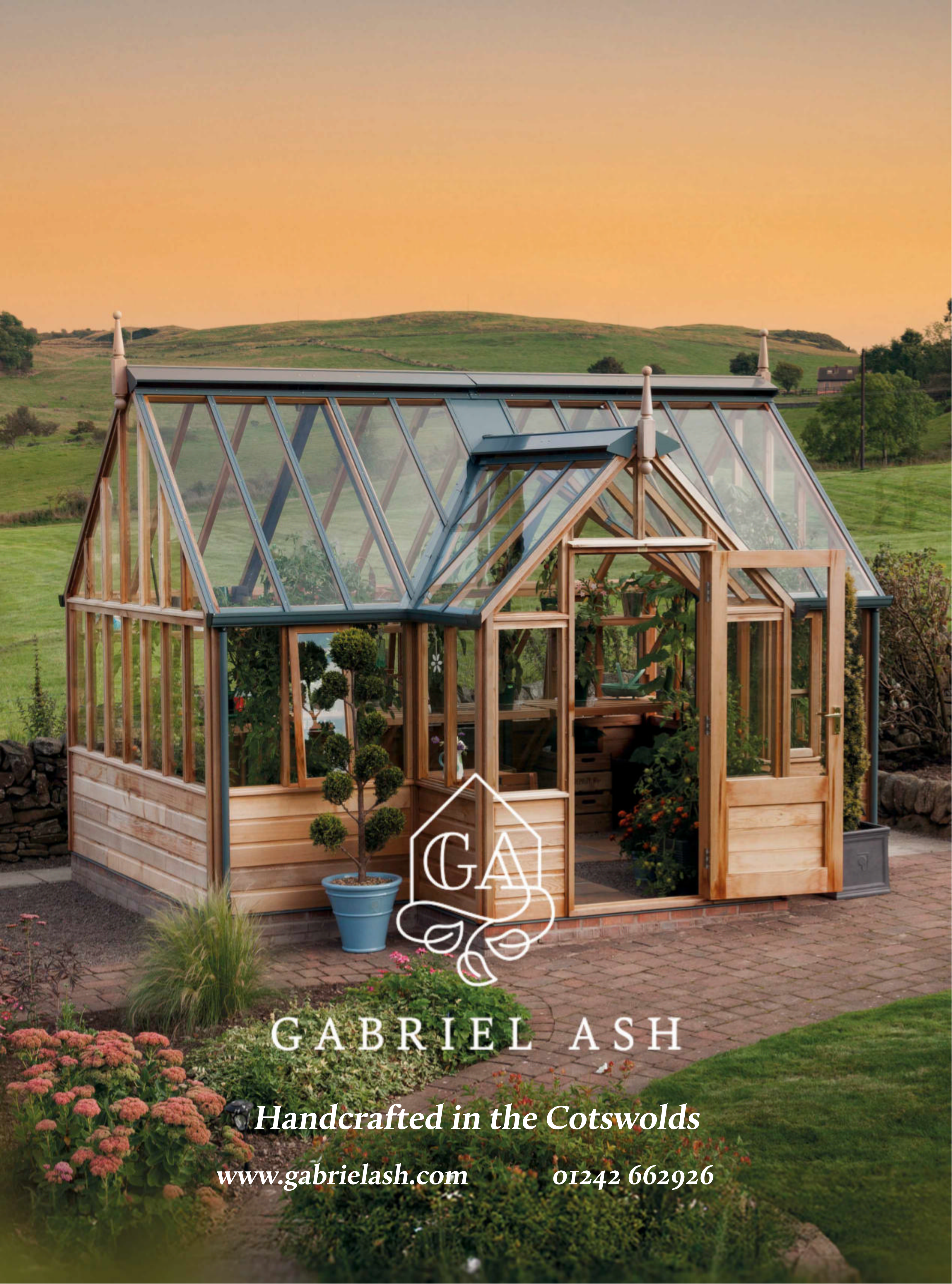
A gap at the front of the border is perfect for alpine strawberries

Master your mix

Nick's guide to combining plants

Growing edible plants with ornamentals makes the most of the space you have, says **Nick Bailey**, and provides you with a garden that is lovely to look at... and eat!

PHOTO: NEIL HEPWORTH



GABRIEL ASH
Handcrafted in the Cotswolds
www.gabrielash.com
01242 662926

The term 'edimental' is a relatively new one, but what it describes has been going on in gardens for generations: growing edible plants among ornamentals to make the most of the space, to support other plants, to attract wildlife such as pollinators and potentially deter pests. In essence, an edimental garden is a rebranding of the traditional cottage garden bursting with an abundant mix of veg and flowers. But, for a host of reasons, not all edible and ornamental plants will grow successfully together. Here, I will explain how to make them work practically and aesthetically in your garden.

On the menu

The idea of a rich tapestry of ornamental and edible plants thriving together is an appealing one. It's in tune with our ever-shrinking gardens and maximises the output of a space, no matter how small it is. And growing a wide diversity of species, rather than the monocultures we often cultivate in veg gardens, allows for better plant health, and provides a rich source of food and shelter for insects such as bees, hoverflies and the all-important parasitic wasps that naturally manage pest populations.

That said, chucking a load of cabbages between your busy Lizzies is just not going to work: the brassicas will go from tiny to huge in a couple of months, thus smothering the busy Lizzies. They'll also attract a host of pests and therefore need covering in mesh, which, of course, does not look pretty in the border. There is also the issue that once the cabbage is harvested it leaves a big gap in the border. Oh, and did I mention the smelly leaves overwhelming the nearby roses? Now, that might sound very negative, but the message is that there are edible plants – including cabbages, carrots, peas and potatoes – that just don't work in ornamental borders, but the good news is that there are also lots that do!

Some of the key factors in choosing edimental species to integrate into your borders is picking plants that either produce a yield over a long season, have their own ornamental qualities or are not killed and removed as part of their own harvest. And these three groups of plants feature delicious edibles such as artichokes, asparagus, Chilean guava and strawberries.

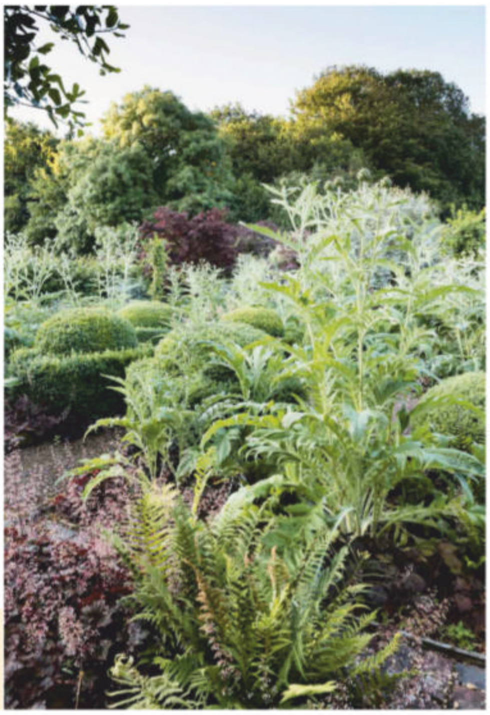
The plants I most commonly integrate into borders are those that yield an ongoing harvest – plants that continue to produce and can be picked from, but are not aesthetically compromised by the process. These plants include alpine strawberry, dill, globe artichoke, perennial kale, sage and sweet cicely, as well as more unusual edibles such as Malabar spinach, which is a delicious succulent-leafed, purple-stemmed, self-twining climber. Or how about *Solanum sisymbriifolium*? This tomato relative reaches around 1.2m tall, and is flanked with very spiny leaves, huge mauve flowers and deliciously smoky-savoury fruits that appear over three to four months in the border. Alternatively, try *Myrrhis odorata*: commonly known as sweet cicely. This produces leaves ideal for sweetening sharper edibles such as blackcurrants or rhubarb.

Then there are the plants that are primarily edible but have ornamental qualities, too. These include globe artichoke, *Oxalis tuberosa* and *Vitis vinifera* 'Phönix'. The oxalis is a beautiful ground-covering plant with furry clover-like leaves and a succession of yellow flowers. It looks great from June to October, then it can be lifted for its tubers, saving a few to replant next spring. Admittedly, a grapevine takes a little more space than some of my recommendations, but it is both ornamental and edible if you've got a fence, shed or pergola. For real drama, why not add globe artichoke to the back of your beds. Its flowers are held on 2m-high stems and are delicious steamed, while its attractive silver leaves will continue to grow throughout the year.

Bare necessities

Edimentals don't just have to slot into a permanent structure of ornamental plants, they can also provide the structure. Think black-, white- and redcurrants for their shrubby form, Chilean guava for its evergreen near-topiary quality, and cordon-trained apples, cherries, pears or plums for punctuation and focal points.

By following a few basic rules and only growing plants in the groups I've mentioned, it's possible to get a significant and healthy yield out of a garden that is at least 50 per cent ornamental. This mix of plants is better grown together in terms of yield, efficiency, wildlife and pest resistance. So try adding some edimentals to your plot or experiment with one of my border recipes, overleaf.



Above ***Salvia nemorosa*** **adds colour while a standard grape vine gives height and fruit**
Right **Ferns, cardoons, heuchera and topiary offer different forms in a muted palette**

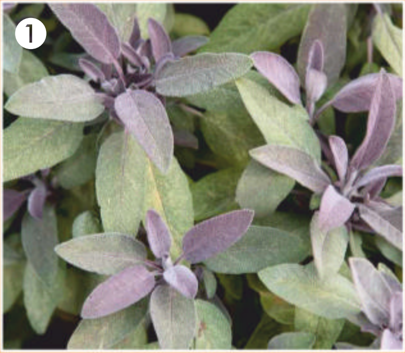
PHOTOS: ALAMY/A GARDEN; GETTY/CHARLES HAWES

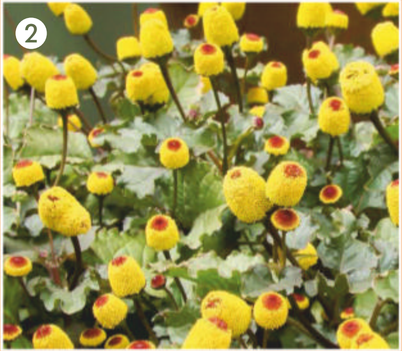
Get growing: plant combinations to try in your garden

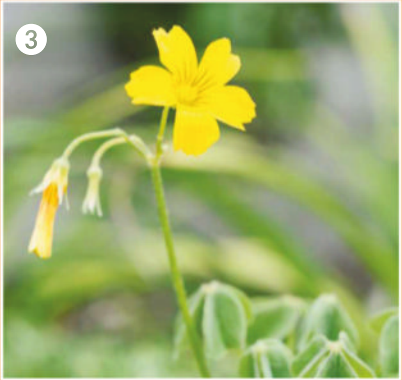
All-edible front of border

1. *Salvia officinalis* ‘Purpurascens’
2. *Acmella oleracea*
3. Oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*)

Ideal at the front of a sunny border, in a rockery or even a chunky window box, this combination features the dusky purple leaves of sage combined with the gorgeous yellow blooms of the oxalis, grown for its delicious tubers. The third component is *Acmella oleracea,* commonly known as the electric daisy. Its quirky, spherical, red and yellow flowers look dramatic, and add a citrussy punch to salads.



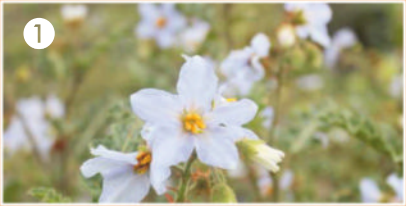


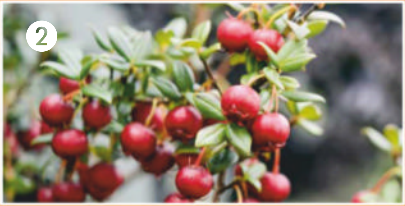


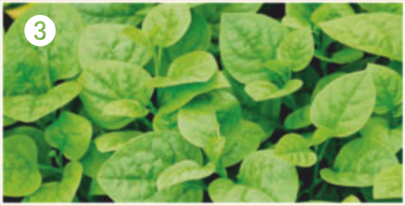
Mid-border mix

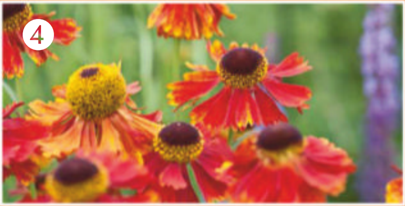
1. *Solanum sisymbriifolium*
2. Chilean guava (*Ugni molinae*)
3. Ceylon spinach (*Basella alba*)
4. *Helenium* ‘Moerheim Beauty’
5. Chilean glory flower (*Eccremocarpus scaber*)

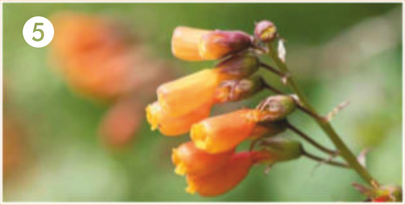
A warm-coloured combination of beautiful edible and ornamental plants. The helenium physically supports the fruiting solanum while a tripod of canes will provide structure for the bold-leafed edible spinach and ornamental Chilean glory flower. The Chilean Guava gives evergreen structure and delicious fruit.







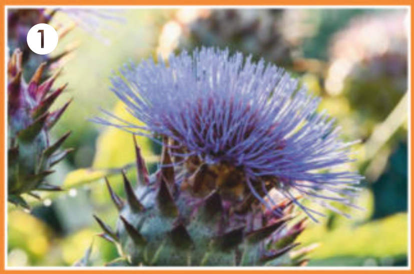


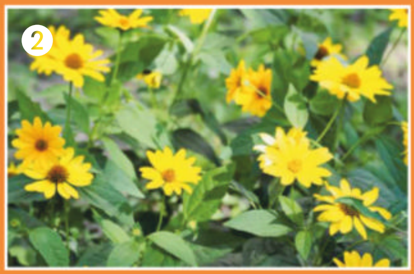


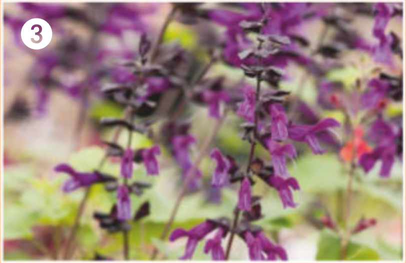
Back-of-border blend

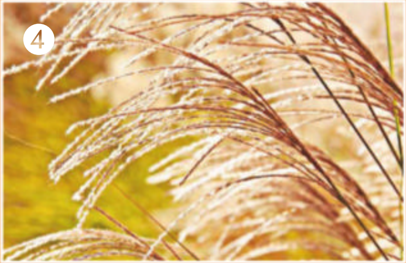
1. Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus,* Scolymus Group)
2. Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*)
3. *Salvia* ‘Amistad’
4. *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Gracillimus’

Two ornamental and two edibles make up the combination here, and they all reach around 2m in height, making this ideal as a self-supporting border back set. The Jerusalem artichoke has delicious knobbly tubers while the globe artichoke has edible stalks.









PHOTOS: GETTY/IVANASTAR, TOM MEAKER, NGUYEN THI NHU QUYNH, PINRATH PHANPRADITH; UNKAS_PHOTO

Agapanthus Silver Grace Collection

A show-stopping collection that will transform your garden with 3 luxurious varieties

hayloft plants

Trustpilot ★★★★★ EXCELLENT

SAVE £5 WHEN USING CODE GW09

'Sophie' H&S: 50cm

'White Baby' H&S: 30cm

'Silver Baby' H: 30cm S: 50cm

The Agapanthus Silver Grace Collection offers fuss-free enjoyment for gardeners of all abilities.

The deep blue flowers of 'Sophie' perfectly contrast the pure white blooms of 'White Baby', whilst 'Silver Baby' displays soft bi-colour petals to complete the collection. All varieties are happy in sunny borders or pots and provide vibrant summer displays with ease.

- Drought-tolerant
- Good for Pollinators
- Hardy down to -5°C
- Low-maintenance

shop with **confidence**

NO QUIBBLE GUARANTEE

Trusted by over 500,000 gardeners

✓ **Rated Excellent** on Trustpilot with over 16,000 reviews

✓ **Need advice?** Our helpful team will resolve your query

✓ **Get in touch:**
Mon-Sat 9am to 5pm
01386 562 999
customercare@hayloft.co.uk

Your **9cm pots** will be delivered to your door in **5 days**, use **code GW09** to receive your **discount!**

IT'S EASY TO ORDER QUOTE **GW09** OR SEARCH ONLINE

ONLINE: hayloft.co.uk

ORDER LINE: 0333 358 2006

POST : Fill in the coupon

First name: Surname:

Address

Postcode Tel

Email

Send to: Hayloft Plants LIMITED, FREEPOST RUHB-AKRA-ZXBK,
Pershore Road, Little Comberton, Pershore, WR10 3HF

THANK YOU, WE WILL CONFIRM YOUR ORDER

Your details are kept securely and not shared with third parties. You will receive a catalogue, welcome email and special offers, if you prefer not to receive them please call 01386 562999. For T&Cs – see hayloft.co.uk

Please Send	Item Code	Price	SAVE £5 CODE GW09	Qty	Total
3 x 9cm pots (1 of each)	K50020	~~£24~~	£19		
P&P				£4.95	
			Total		

(UK postage including Scottish Islands, Channel Islands and Northern Ireland)

Please debit my Visa/Mastercard

Title: ____________ Name on card: ____________

Card no | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Expiry | | | | | CV2 | | | |

I enclose cheque/PO for _____________ made payable to Hayloft Plants Ltd
(Please write your address on reverse of cheque)

GWHY

Gardeners' World offer

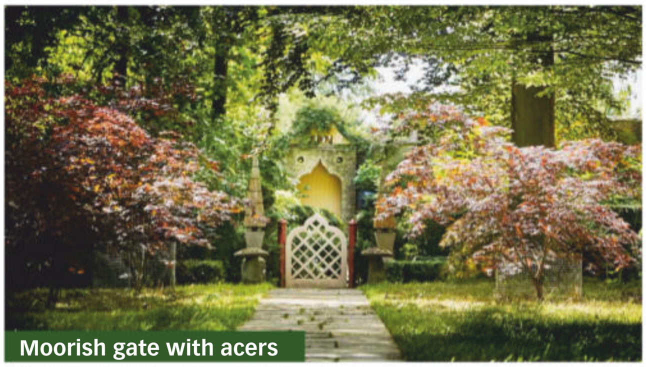
EXCLUSIVE EVENT FOR *GW* READERS

Alan Titchmarsh

14 October 2025, £235pp

Join Alan at Highgrove

BBC Gardeners' World Magazine **is thrilled to invite you to an exclusive event with *GW* favourite Alan Titchmarsh at Highgrove Gardens on Tuesday 14 October from 3.15pm**


Moorish gate with acers

Autumn's vibrant foliage

This is your chance to explore the breathtaking private gardens of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla, guided by **expert hosts** who'll share the fascinating story of how these iconic gardens came to life. From wildflower meadows to perfectly pruned topiary, every corner reflects the King's passion for nature and sustainability.

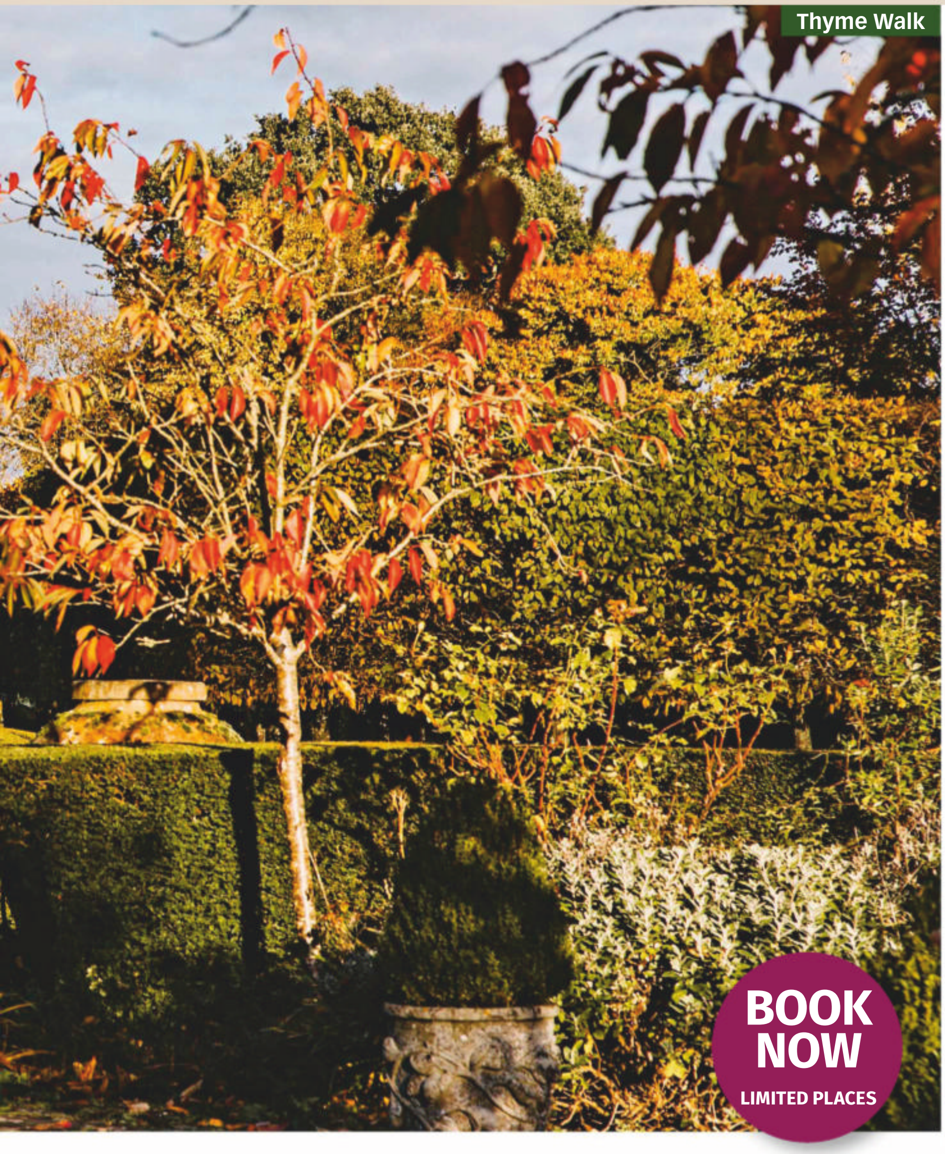
After your tour, you'll return for **prosecco and canapés** on the beautiful Orchard Room Terrace, followed by a delicious **three-course dinner** made with seasonal ingredients and paired with Highgrove's organic wines. Alan will join you for an entertaining post-dinner talk and Q&A – a rare opportunity to hear his gardening tales and tips in an intimate setting.

YOUR VISIT INCLUDES

- A 75-minute **guided walk** around the gardens starting at 3.15pm
- **Prosecco** and **canapés** on the terrace and visit to shop
- A seasonal **three-course dinner** with **Highgrove organic wines**
- Tea and coffee
- A lively **talk and Q&A with Alan Titchmarsh**
- A **goody bag** to take home when you depart at 9pm

Images are for illustrative purposes only

EXCLUSIVE EVENT FOR *GW* READERS


Thyme Walk

BOOK NOW
LIMITED PLACES

The Carpet Garden

Highgrove's shop

Highgrove: the evolution of a royal estate

Highgrove Gardens, near Tetbury in Gloucestershire, is the private residence of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Built between 1796 and 1798 in Georgian neo-classical style, the property has a rich history, once home to Maurice Macmillan, son of former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

When King Charles acquired Highgrove in 1980, the grounds were largely neglected. Over the decades, he has transformed them into a vibrant tapestry of themed gardens, each reflecting his deep commitment to sustainability, biodiversity and traditional horticulture.

Visitors to Highgrove are treated to a unique experience: a guided tour through a series of meticulously designed gardens, each space offering an insight into the King's personal vision and environmental ethos. Beyond its beauty, Highgrove supports charitable causes through The King's Foundation, with proceeds from tours and the estate shop aiding community and environmental initiatives. Whether you're a garden lover or fascinated by royal heritage, Highgrove offers a rare glimpse into a living, breathing royal passion project.

Royal residence

> "We had a lovely evening – the **Highgrove gardens are beautiful** and the whole event was **very well organised**"

Tickets cost £235pp – book now at:
highgrovegardens.com/GWAT2025
Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Dress code is smart casual. Suitable footwear required for garden tour.

HIGHGROVE

Terms & conditions: All profits from Highgrove Garden Tours are donated to The King's Foundation. For other exclusive *GW* events, go to **GardenersWorld.com/travel-and-events** and browse reader testimonials at **GardenersWorld.com/feedback**

PHOTOS: ANDREW BUTLER; COURTNEY LOUISE PHOTOGRAPHY; FELICITY_MILLWARD_PHOTOGRAPHY; GAP PHOTOS/HIGHGROVE/ROBERT SMITH; LEANNE_PUNSHON

VAZON BAY, GUERNSEY
Our *outdoor* playground
The ISLANDS of
GUERNSEY

Root of the matter!

ASHLEY EDWARDS
BARBARA SEGALL
BECKY SEARLE
HAFSAH HAFEJI
JAMIE WALTON
POLLYANNA WILKINSON

'What is the importance of soil when starting a garden from scratch?'

Becky Searle is an ecologist and organic gardener focusing on how to work with nature to transform outside spaces. She is also author of the book *Grow a New Garden*. *@sow_much_more*

Planning to start a new garden from the beginning? Or maybe you're thinking of working on a new area of an existing one? In either case, the secret to growing a beautiful and thriving garden is not in the seeds you sow, the layout you choose or the budget you have. Nor is it about how well you plan the journey through the garden or the interesting plants. None of that matters if you haven't got one thing right: soil.

The old advice to start with the soil still stands, but the specifics have changed hugely as our understanding of soil has developed over the last few decades. Scientists now know that soil is an incredible ecosystem that is full of life. Regardless of whether you have clay, sand, silt or loam, newbuild soil or an old cottage garden, the treatment advice is broadly the same: it is the organisms in the soil that create good soil structure. They increase drainage, improve aeration, help fight pests and feed nutrients to our plants. So, how can we improve the soil in our gardens to set ourselves up for success?

When I first moved into my house, my garden was in a sorry state. It had been landscaped some years before, but despite the presence of a few sizeable raised beds, there were no plants. The soil was covered in slate chippings and below it was almost solid clay. When it rained the water sat on the surface, and when I examined under the slate chippings there were large patches that were completely dry, even after rain. It was typical newbuild soil, no doubt made worse by the landscaping that had disturbed it. Just two years later, however, the soil is rich, free-draining and supports a huge number of plants, all jostling for position, and filling the garden with colour and life.

So, what brought about this drastic change and how can you do it too? The answer is so simple, but before we get to that, it's important that you understand two things: the first is that the life in soil is fundamentally linked to our plants' health – it's actually been hypothesised that without soil life, we wouldn't have terrestrial plants at all; the second is that life in soil depends on our plants.

It's a neat symbiosis. Plants produce carbohydrates and sugars during photosynthesis, and these are what powers all life on earth. The soil organisms get food in two ways: from dead organic matter (leaves or animals and poop, which are all carbon-based) and from something called root exudates. The latter are packages of sugars and carbohydrates fed down through the roots of plants. This is given away by plants to feed soil life in exchange for nutrients and a good soil environment. Far from depleting the soil, plants are continually enriching it.

> *"Without the simple addition of the compost before planting, I doubt that many, if any, of my plants would have survived the first season"*

Knowing how soil and plants are linked, we can work out what our soil needs to grow healthy plants. Quite simply: dead organic matter and live plant roots. This is the only bit we need to concern ourselves with. The soil life will do the rest. So, in my garden, I added a thick layer of compost to my beds, (around 7cm). I chose an organic, peat-free compost because this acts as an inoculant, adding life to the soil, and feeding it. The resulting soil surface texture also helps to keep undesirable creatures such as slugs and woodlice at bay, which if camped out next to your plants can quickly become a problem. Unlike peat, peat-free compost is a living ecosystem, full of fungi, bacteria and other beneficial microbes that help build soil structure and release nutrients to our plants. If you don't have access to compost, growing some green manure plants like phacelia, field beans or forage peas can help improve your soil, and if you cut them and add them to your compost heap, you will have some mulch for the following year.

Once I had mulched, I planted straight into the beds, a mix of annuals and perennials. I tried to minimise the disturbance, but obviously I had to dig holes. After that, I just topped up with some more peat-free compost the following winter, although this can be done anytime. Topping up with compost helps add yet more organic matter, feeding the soil. It has been two years since then and my plants have thrived. The beds no longer fill with water, even in extreme rain, and my trowel sinks into the soil with ease when I want to add a new plant to the ensemble. Without the simple addition of the compost before planting I doubt many of my plants would have survived the first season. My soil will continue to improve year after year.

So now you know how it works, show your soil some love from the start, and it'll reward you with a thriving garden.

NEXT MONTH...
Jamie Walton shares the benefits of seed saving for your garden, nature and the community

Tune into the *Gardeners' World Magazine* Summer Conversations podcast series now. The Autumn Conversations series starts on 2 September. Visit **GardenersWorld.com/podcast**

PHOTO: PAULA FERNLEY

WORK SAFER, NOT HARDER

HENCHMAN®

LADDERS FOR UNEVEN GROUND

The Henchman Tripod Ladder Range

3 ADJUSTABLE LEGS TO TACKLE UNEVEN GROUND

WIDE CLAWED FEET FOR GRIP ON SOFT GROUND

PLATFORM RUNG FOR MORE COMFORT WHEN WORKING

Standard step ladders are designed for flat, hard ground which means they can be unsafe on uneven or soft ground. A Henchman ladder is specially designed for uneven ground, keeping you level and safe as you work.

Incredibly lightweight, a Henchman Tripod Ladder is easy to carry and manoeuvre, making it ideal for garden jobs and general DIY. Stable on slopes and varying levels, a Henchman Tripod Ladder lets you tackle any job at height with confidence.

- **SAFE ON UNEVEN SURFACES**
  Adjustable legs allow the ladder to keep you safe when working on uneven ground.
- **HANDS FREE WITH COMFORT**
  A platform rung combined with high guard rail allows you to work hands free securely.
- **NO SUDDEN SINKING**
  Wide claw feet firmly grip into soft ground. Add rubber feet for indoor or hard surfaces for extra grip.

FREE DELIVERY & NO RISK RETURNS

bsi Mobile Ladders with Platform KITEMARK™

HEIGHTS AVAILABLE **5ft – 16ft**

FREE RUBBER FEET INCLUDED

Rated Excellent ★ Trustpilot **4.9** ★★★★★
Based on over 4,000 reviews

*With any ladder or main unit purchase

3 adjustable legs to tackle uneven ground
Platform rung reduces risk of slipping
Model shown: 10ft Fully Adjustable PRO Tripod Ladder
Hedge-proof locking pin
Wide clawed feet for grip on soft ground
Levelled for uneven ground

SPECIAL OFFER

FREE set of Gardening Gloves* ***(Worth £25)***

Apply promo code **GWM825** in basket and select size.

"Excellent Product and Service. Cannot recommend the ladder highly enough. First class product. Solid construction." Mike.D

SEE FOR YOURSELF!
Scan here to see our complete range of Henchman ladders

To order or for more information
Visit **Henchman.co.uk**
or call today on 03333 444 229

WE DELIVER TO EUROPE!
Visit **Henchman.eu**
or email **info@henchman.eu**

WHAT TO DO NOW

50 things to do this month from the *Gardeners' World* team

This month!

58 Around the garden
63 Pruning
67 Wildlife
68 Flowers
71 House plants
73 Fruit & veg

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS; JASON INGRAM

Remove faded blooms, weeds and wayward stems, so borders stay at their best for as long as possible

Keep borders looking fresh

Cut back spent flowers and faded foliage in your borders, such as lilies that are going over. First, stand back and have a good look so you can focus on what needs to be tidied up and what should be left for later flowering and winter structure.

Then do some strategic snipping – as well as tidying up the border, this also gives you the chance to spot weeds hiding among your plants. Finish by trimming the lawn edges to sharpen the frame for your flowers, and your borders should look good for the rest of the month.

Give meadow areas a tidy-up

Use shears to cut back small areas of wildflower meadow. Prune everything down to about 10cm and leave the trimmings on the surface for a few days to drop any seeds into the soil. Then rake it all up to allow light to reach the base of the plants and lower the meadow's fertility.

Cutting by hand rather than using a mower minimises damage to any sheltering creatures. The wildflower plants then have the chance to strengthen their growth so they can compete with the grasses and be ready for flowering early next year.

Trim small areas of meadow by hand to reduce any harm to wildlife

Trim hedges

It's a good time to give evergreen hedges a light prune, now that garden birds have finished nesting. Trimming now also gives you a little regrowth this year but the neat shape will last until next spring.

Lay a tarpaulin below where you're working to catch the trimmings. Using shears or a trimmer, work on the sides first, with the blades flat to the face of the hedge to avoid making holes. Cut back to just above the start of this year's growth. Do the top last, using a string line or straight edge to get the shape even.

Cut back most of this year's growth on evergreen hedges

Top up ponds in hot weather

Summer heat can cause pond water to evaporate and the level can soon drop, so check it regularly. Use fresh cold water to top it up whenever necessary – tap water is fine but don't add more than a third of the pond's capacity. Try not to stir up the sediment too.

Pond water will also warm up in hot weather, meaning it can hold less oxygen. This can cause pond life such as fish and insect larvae to struggle. Adding a small fountain will help to aerate the water.

Keep your pond life thriving by replacing any evaporated water

STEP BY STEP Take salvia tip cuttings

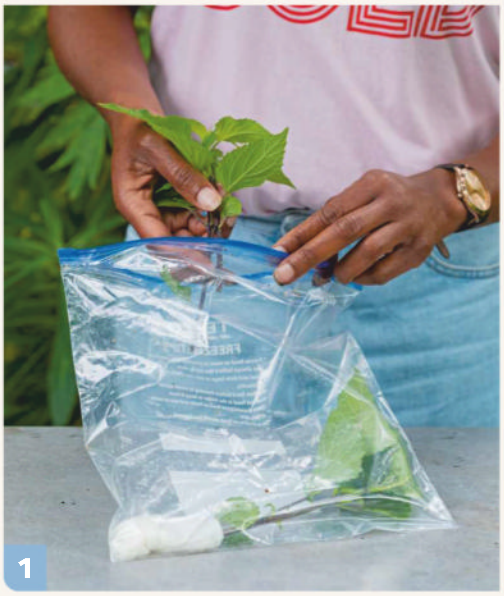
Take cuttings of your favourite salvias to make new plants for next year, in case the parent plants don't survive the winter. Salvia cuttings are easy to root and if kept in a greenhouse or cold frame, they'll be large enough to plant outside in late spring. Keep the cuttings humid while they root by covering with a clear lid, and pot them on either in a few weeks if grown in warmth, or in spring if rooted without heat.

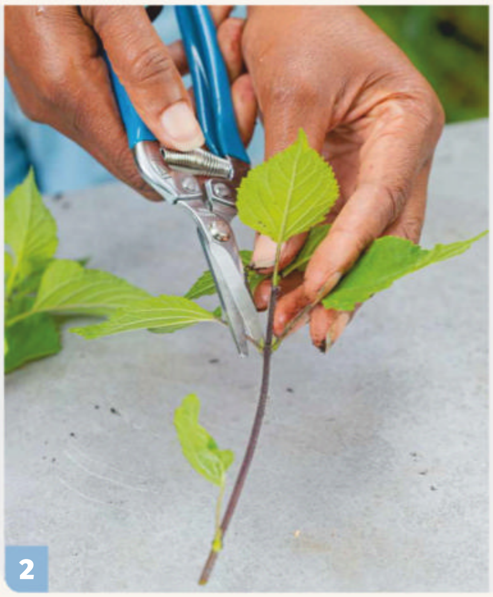
1 COLLECT the cuttings in the morning when it's cool. Select strong, healthy, non-flowering shoots and snip off immediately above a leaf joint. Put them straight into a plastic bag and spray water inside to prevent them wilting.

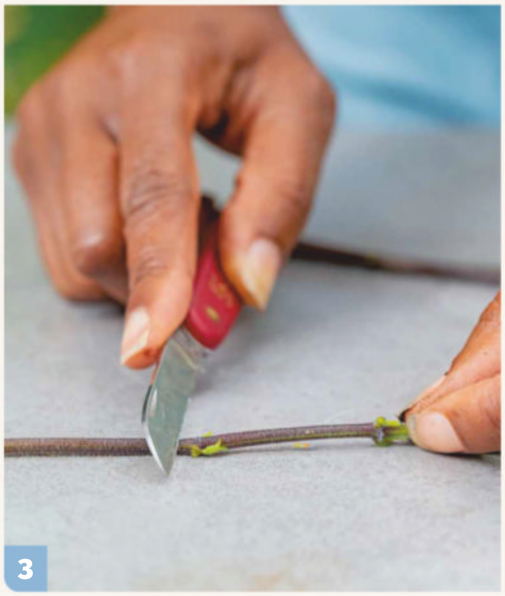
2 SNIP off all the lower leaves as close to the stem as possible without damaging or tearing the tissue on the main stem. Also pinch out the soft shoot tip. Aim to leave about four leaves.

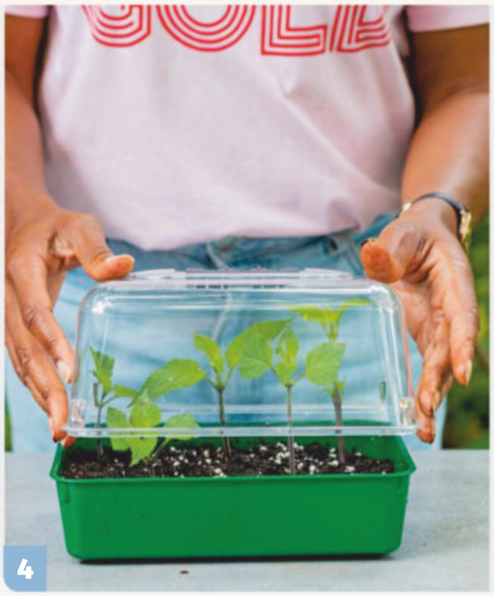
3 TRIM the cutting at the base just below a node or leaf joint, so the cutting ends up about 10cm long. Sharp snips or a knife will make a clean cut.

4 FILL a small seed tray or pot with gritty, peat-free cuttings compost and lightly firm it level. Use a dibber to make holes, then push each cutting vertically into the compost, spacing them apart so the leaves don't touch. Cover with a plastic bag or clear lid.


1


2


3


4

Mist greenhouse ornamentals

Keep a sprayer filled with clean water ready to dampen the leaves of plants in the greenhouse, to keep the foliage fresh and the humidity high. Filled in advance, the water will be at the same temperature as the surrounding air in the greenhouse, avoiding cold water scorch or temperature stress that can cause defoliation.

Mist the plants in the morning or evening, out of direct sunlight. If the tap water in your area is hard, fill the sprayer with rainwater instead, to avoid leaving white calcium marks on the leaves.

Greenhouse air can be dry, so mist humidity-loving plants regularly

DON'T FORGET

- ☐ **Keep exotic plants well watered and fed during dry spells**
- ☐ **Prepare the soil if you want a new lawn**
- ☐ **Keep watch for signs of powdery mildew, and water any prone plants if dry**
- ☐ **Deadhead roses to keep them looking their best**
- ☐ **Remove weeds from gaps in paving**

WORDS: ROSIE YEOMANS. PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; NEIL HEPWORTH; JASON INGRAM

Cut back border plants so they don't flop onto the lawn and cause bare patches

Keep lawn edges in good shape

Plants at the front of a border often spill onto the lawn as they grow. The grass then fades away under the foliage and when the border plants die back in winter, you're left with bare patches of lawn.

So trim back any plants that are flopping onto the grass or insert low supports along the lawn edge. You can also avoid the problem by planting well back from the edge so plants don't ever reach the lawn.

Tidy heucheras

Remove the old flower stems of heucheras by tracing them right down to the base, then snipping them out from beneath the foliage. Pull out any faded or dead leaves too, and take the opportunity to check for slugs and snails under the leaves, around pot rims and at the base of shoots.

This quick tidy-up ensures their vibrant foliage becomes the centre of attention as the temperatures drop and the colour pigments strengthen into the autumn. Finish off by giving them a good long soak of water.

Snip off old heuchera stems so you can enjoy the lovely foliage

Beechgrove

Beechgrove Garden

BEECHGROVE ON TV

Catch up with the Beechgrove team on BBC Scotland and BBC TWO. Check TV listings for details.

BBC TWO

If you spot any blight patches on potato leaves, cut the whole plant to the ground

VIEW FROM BEECHGROVE

Remove blighted foliage

In August, blight often infects potato leaves. Resistant varieties stay healthy for a bit longer but can still succumb to this fungal disease. A brownish-black leaf tip or speckly spots on a healthy plant can rapidly spread and devastate the foliage. Even if you remove the leaves at these first signs, you can rarely stop its spread. So cut the plants down to the ground and bin rather than compost them. The tubers will stop growing, but they're often sizeable and the disease rarely affects them. Harvest in a few weeks or straightaway in damp weather to avoid slug damage.

DON'T FORGET

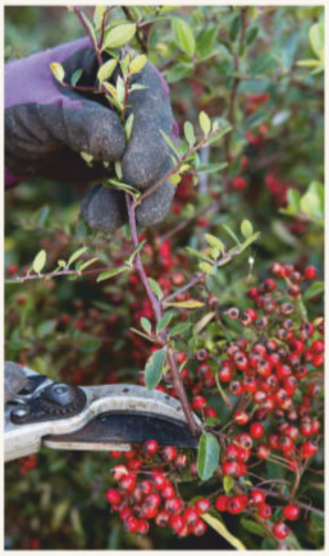
- ☐ Feed amaryllis with a high-potash liquid feed, then reduce watering next month
- ☐ Check ponds for algae build-up, remove any weeds and thin out floating plants
- ☐ Scarify your lawn to remove any moss and debris, then aerate by spiking with a fork
- ☐ Sow hardy annual seeds direct outside for earlier flowers than those from spring sowings

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE

LOOK OUT FOR self-sown seedlings

If you've been growing self-seeders like love-in-a-mist, nasturtiums, cerinthe or *Verbena bonariensis*, check nearby for seedlings now. Take care not to weed them out and if they've popped up in awkward places, such as these cerinthe in a path, transplant them when a few days of cool weather are forecast.

Do this first thing in the morning, keeping as much of the roots intact as possible. Then water them in well straight afterwards.



Prune back new growth, leaving the vibrant berries in place

Trim pyracantha

Over time, pyracantha can grow into a large shrub that takes up a lot of space. But pruning at this time of year will limit its size, while also encouraging more flowers and berries. All the current season's growth can be cut back by two-thirds to three-quarters during August. Use secateurs and make your cuts just above a leaf.

The soft prunings can then be added to the compost heap, where they'll quickly rot down if mixed with other compost ingredients. As you aren't cutting into the older wood, there's less chance of being injured by thorns, but it's still worth wearing thick gloves and eye protection.

---

advertisement feature

Kids review kits

Read all about how Aubree, 9, got on with building the LEGO® Friends Friendship Tree House Hangout

"I really enjoyed building this set because there were lots of colourful pieces, and in the end, when it was complete, it looked beautiful. Some bits of it were trickier to build than others, but most of it was easy and not too hard. The balcony was probably trickiest, because I had to get it in place with the other pieces and it was hard to see all of them clearly. I didn't have any help and did it all myself!

"My favourite part was probably building the roof and the sunflowers, because these were the last bits, and once I finished, I was really happy.

"I would recommend it to my friends who enjoy LEGO sets and want a challenge, and I would definitely like to build more kits from this collection. Now I've built it, I'm going to put it on display with my other built LEGO sets."

To get your hands on this and other fun LEGO sets, visit **lego.com** now

LEGO and the LEGO logo are trademarks of the LEGO Group. ©2025 The LEGO Group

Tangled Exotics Collection

hayloft plants

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★ EXCELLENT

Three climbing plants to create a towering tropical oasis

SAVE
£5
WHEN USING
CODE GW09

**Passiflora
'Lavender Lady'
H: 4m S: 1.5m**

**Actinidia
kolomikta
H&S: 8m**

RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

**Akebia quinata
H: 10m S: 5m**

A bold trio of climbing beauties.

Fragrant Passion Flower 'Lavender Lady', award-winning Actinidia kolomikta and lush, fruiting Akebia quinata make up this collection, to add a touch of the tropics to your garden, with flowers and fruit from summer into autumn.

- Fully Hardy
- Climbers
- Scented
- Great for pollinators

shop with **confidence**

NO QUIBBLE GUARANTEE

Trusted by over 500,000 gardeners

☑ **Rated Excellent** on Trustpilot with over 16,000 reviews

☑ **Need advice?** Our helpful team will resolve your query

☑ **Get in touch:**
Mon-Sat 9am to 5pm
01386 562 999
customercare@hayloft.co.uk

Your **9cm pots** will be delivered to your door in **5 days,** use **code GW09** to receive your **discount**

IT'S EASY TO ORDER QUOTE **GW09** OR SEARCH ONLINE

ONLINE:	ORDER LINE:	POST :
hayloft.co.uk	0333 358 2006	Fill in the coupon

First name: Surname:

Address

Postcode Tel

Email

Send to: Hayloft Plants LIMITED, FREEPOST RUHB-AKRA-ZXBK,
Pershore Road, Little Comberton, Pershore, WR10 3HF

THANK YOU, WE WILL CONFIRM YOUR ORDER

Your details are kept securely and not shared with third parties. You will receive a catalogue, welcome email and special offers, if you prefer not to receive them please call 01386 562999. For T&Cs – see hayloft.co.uk

Please Send	Item Code	Price	SAVE £5 CODE GW09	Qty	Total
3 x 9cm pots (1 of each)	K50098	was £28	now £23		
P&P					**£4.95**
(UK postage including Scottish Islands, Channel Islands and Northern Ireland) Total					

Please debit my Visa/Mastercard

Title: ______________ Name on card: ______________________________

Card no | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Expiry | | | | | CV2 | | | |

I enclose cheque/PO for _______________ made payable to Hayloft Plants Ltd
(Please write your address on reverse of cheque)

GWHY

***Ashley Edwards** shows you what to prune in the garden this month*

Cut back any branches that are heavily weighted by fruit, as they may break and damage the tree

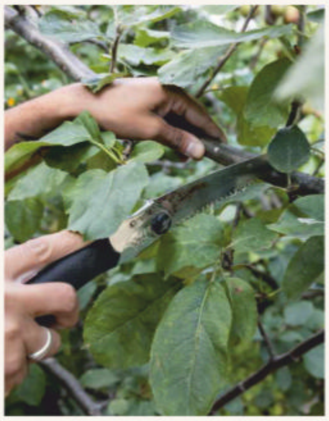
Trim overgrown apple trees

If your apple tree has become overgrown, or you've inherited a neglected tree, now is the perfect time to give it a summer prune. By pruning in summer rather than winter, you remove some of the tree's vigour, thereby making it concentrate its energy on producing fruit rather than more leafy growth. It also keeps the tree at a manageable size.

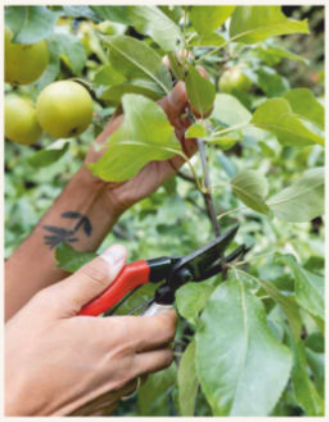
Trained varieties such as espaliers, cordons or step-overs also need a summer trim to maintain their restricted shape. Cut back any new lateral shoots to three sets of leaves. For tip-bearing varieties, avoid pruning as much as possible. If you do need to reduce the overall size of the tree, do so over several years and try to keep as many shoot tips as possible.

STEP BY STEP

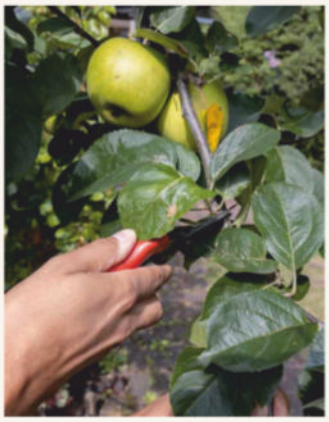
Prune apple trees



1 USE a clean, sharp saw to prune thicker stems. This reduces the chance of damaging the bark, your tools or yourself! Sterilise your saw between trees to lessen the risk of spreading disease.



2 USE secateurs to cut back new, long lateral shoots to three sets of leaves. These will form next year's fruiting spurs. Choose an outward-facing bud to prune back to, if possible.



3 REDUCE the length of branches if they are bending under the weight of fruit. Don't cut back more than a quarter of the branch and avoid removing developing fruit or fruiting wood.

WORDS: ASHLEY EDWARDS. PHOTOS: PAUL DEBOIS.

Prune deciduous shrubs such as paperbush to remove dead, diseased or damaged branches

Cut dead stems out of shrubs

Summer is an easy time to spot dead branches as living stems are clothed in healthy green leaves. It's good practice to remove dead stems in shrubs as it opens them up to allow light to reach leaves and helps to maintain a good air flow. It can also help reduce pest and disease problems, and you'll end up with a better shaped shrub.

Dead wood can be a great habitat for wildlife, so if you do cut out branches, try creating a dead-hedge by piling them up in a corner of your garden. It'll become a haven for insects and maybe a hedgehog, if you're lucky.

Wisteria needs pruning twice a year to check its vigorous growth

Trim wisteria

Pruning back new whippy growth on wisteria helps the plant to focus its energy on next year's flower buds rather than leafy growth. It also allows more light and air into the plant, helping to keep it healthy and at a manageable size.

The new shoots are easy to spot. They reach several feet long and grow off the main framework of the plant, twining around each other and slapping you in the face as you walk by. Prune these shoots back to 5-6 leaves from the base.

This prune may seem severe, but along with an additional winter prune back to two or three buds, your plant will instead concentrate on producing fat flowering buds for next spring's display.

Deadhead buddleias

Buddleias produce their flowers at the terminal ends of branches. Now is a good time to deadhead them and at the same time neaten the shrub. Deadheading will often encourage more blooms through the rest of summer and prevent your bush self-seeding and becoming a nuisance.

Prune back stems to a pair of leaves. You can remove up to a quarter of the length, if needed, but trim it lightly and cut back to new flower buds if you want the blooms to keep coming. Buddleias tend to get bashed around by the wind, so giving the plant an overall prune will help to prevent it blowing over or dying because of windrock.

Cut back flowered buddleia branches to a pair of leaves

Next month!

☐ Ashley shows how to tackle an overgrown laurel

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS

THE DIFFERENCE IS
NEVILLE JOHNSON

Transform
Your Staircase

As the UK market leader for luxury staircase renovations, we can add value to your home in 1-2 days by transforming your existing staircase. Create an exquisite design tailored to your budget, with no building work required.

Request a brochure **nevillejohnson.co.uk 0161 873 8333**

FOR HEALTH NUTS

49 PISTACHIOS A DAY:
HEALTHY INSIDE, AND OUT.

JUST 160 KCAL
PER HANDFUL

- ✓ Natural
- ✓ B Vitamins and Minerals
- ✓ Monounsaturated Fats
- ✓ Plant-Based Protein
- ✓ Delicious Recovery Snack

AmericanPistachios.co.uk

Look for the USA origin on your bag for
American quality pistachios.

AMERICAN QUALITY
PISTACHIOS®
California Grown

*NEW: **Kate Bradbury**'s top tasks to do this month to make your garden more wildlife-friendly*

Buddleias are great sources of nectar for pollinators such as butterflies at the end of summer

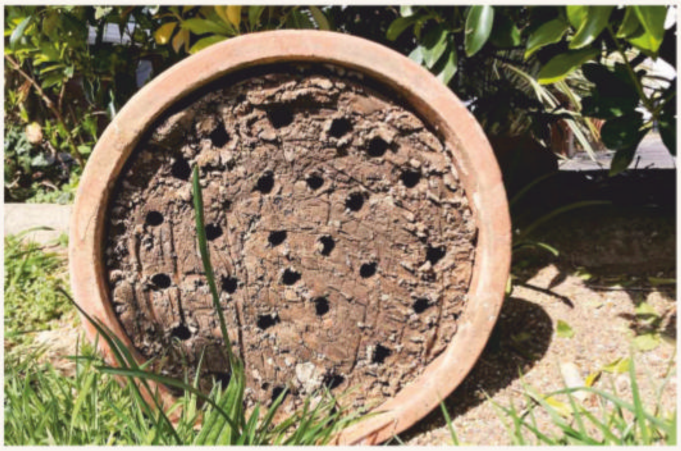
Plant late-season flowers

Extend the season of pollen and nectar for pollinators – which may still be on the wing before hibernation, migration or the end of their lifecycle – by planting some late-season blooms.

Fill gaps in the border with herbaceous plants such as aster, echinacea, helenium, ice plant, rudbeckia and *Verbena bonariensis*, and shrubs such as buddleia and hebe. Don't forget that flowering ivy is one of the best for late-season blooms that birds and insects love, so let it grow up a fence or wall. You'll have to wait a couple of years for its blooms, but they'll be worth the wait.

DON'T FORGET

- ☐ Keep bird baths topped up in dry weather – ground-level baths will be used by hedgehogs
- ☐ Take part in the Big Butterfly Count, which runs until 10 August
- ☐ Erect bee hotels in the sun or shade for the last of the season's leafcutter bees
- ☐ Avoid removing aphids, caterpillars and other insect 'pests' for fledgling birds to eat naturally
- ☐ Install water butts to collect rainwater, which you can use to water your plants and fill your pond



Let the mud dry slowly, for 3-4 weeks, depending on the weather

Build a cob brick bee hotel

Make a home for solitary hairy-footed flower bees (*Anthophora plumipes*). They nest in soft cob walls, gaps in pointing and bee hotels made using mud.

In a bucket, mix clay-rich soil and barley straw, adding a little water at a time until the ingredients are well combined and the mix is damp but not wet. Fill a box or large plant pot with the mix, and use a stick to make holes 10-12mm in diameter while it is still damp.

Keep it in a sunny spot, out of the rain, so the hotel can dry out fully before bees use it next spring.

Clean out bird boxes

Clear out old nests from boxes at the end of the breeding season. After you're certain that nesting has finished, simply take down the box, remove the nest and pour boiling water over the whole box to kill any parasites. Don't use insecticides or flea powders, because any residue could harm next year's chicks.

If you find any abandoned eggs in the nest you must destroy them. It is illegal to keep them under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Sweep out and dispose of any debris from bird boxes

30 MINUTES TO SPARE

Use a sturdy stick or old spade handle to make a dragonfly perch. Dragonflies are extremely territorial and will perch near the pond to chase off rivals. Taking care not to pierce any pond liner, simply push the stick or handle into the soil on or near the edge of your pond, making sure it won't topple under the weight of birds that might also use it.

PHOTOS: KATE BRADBURY; SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS

Pick zinnias regularly to stimulate more flowers to form, and water the plants during dry weather

Cut zinnias for indoor displays

Zinnias make vibrant, long-lasting cut flowers. The best time to pick is either early or late in the day, when it's cool. Make the stems as long as possible and cut just above a leaf so more flowers will follow. Hold the stems at the base because the upper hollow stems bend easily.

Pick off the lower leaves, then to lengthen their vase life, stand the bunch in a deep bucket of cold water in a cool dark room for a few hours or overnight. Trim the ends again before arranging the flowers in your vase.

Keep lavender neat and bushy by trimming back this year's growth

Tidy up lavender

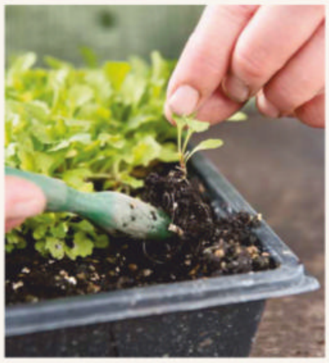
Trim lavender bushes now to encourage some neat regrowth in plenty of time for it to harden and withstand the ravages of winter. It does mean sacrificing the display of dried seedheads, but pays dividends in keeping the plant in good shape for years to come.

Use shears for speed if you have a lot of plants, or secateurs or snips for more precise shaping. Leave just a few centimetres of this year's growth to support the fresh regrowth. Pick out the prunings from within the shrub to ensure light gets to all the foliage.

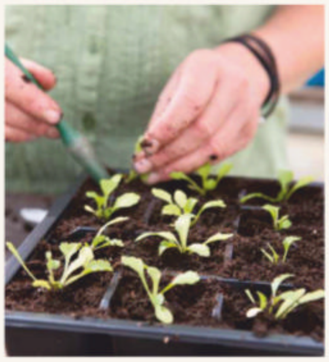
STEP BY STEP

Transplant perennials

Prick out the seedlings of recently sown perennials to avoid a check in growth. Move them into modules or pots of peat-free compost and keep in an unheated greenhouse. Check regularly for snails, which can quickly devour them. They can be planted out in early spring.



1 WATER the seedlings, then use a dibber or pencil to lift up the rootball while you gently hold a leaf tip.



2 MAKE a hole in the centre of each module and lower the roots in. Firm in so the leaves sit just above the surface.

3 WATER with a fine rose, thoroughly soaking the compost. Continue watering regularly as the seedlings grow.

WORDS: ROSIE YEOMANS. PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE

Get more chrysanth flowers per stem by nipping out the tip

Pinch out your chrysanthemums

Increase the number of blooms on your spray chrysanthemums by pinching out the growing tip now. Hold the soft tip just above a bud, between your thumb and forefinger, then use your nail to nip off the top.

This stimulates lateral shoots to develop, all of which will flower to create a spray of smaller blooms rather than just a single bloom at the top. Make sure the stem is well supported and able to hold all this growth upright, so you get straight stems that are perfect for standing in a vase.

Attach the new stems of rambling roses to their support to stop them being blown about and damaged

Cut back and tie in your rambling roses

Give rambling roses a prune now to keep the plant in good shape and attached to its support. They produce exuberant growth so will need a good annual cut now.

First, spend time examining your rose and identify the healthy stems you want to keep. Next, prune out any that are past their best, won't bend to the shape you want or are heading in the wrong direction. Carefully pull the lax new stems into place and tie them to their trellis, wires or other support. Then take out this year's spent lateral flower stems and cut back the tips of the long stems that make up the plant's main framework.

Grow new verbascums for free by harvesting the seeds as they ripen

Collect your own verbascum seeds

Cut the old flowerheads off verbascum plants now that the seed capsules are brown, dry and beginning to split. Turn the stem upside down and put it into a paper bag or envelope – you'll probably need to cut it into shorter sections to fit it in.

Give it all a shake or leave it somewhere dry and cool until the seeds drop out. Discard the seedhead and pour the seeds from the bottom of the bag into a labelled envelope and store in a tin. Sow them soon to raise plants this autumn or sow next spring.

DON'T FORGET

- ☐ Look ahead and order spring bulbs for planting this autumn
- ☐ Keep camellias and rhododendrons well watered in dry spells
- ☐ Leave hardy annuals to self-seed for easy colour next year
- ☐ Protect dahlia flowers from earwigs
- ☐ Deadhead roses and remove any diseased leaves

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE

made in the UK

COMPOST IN 30-90 DAYS

Don't Waste It! Recycle It!
Turn Your Food and Garden
Waste into Peat-Free Compost!

Compost Food & Weeds
Compost **MORE** waste at **40-60°c.**

No Turning Required
Heat is created naturally - no power or accelerators needed, just add waste with paper & woody material.

Compost In All Weather
Well insulated to work all year round!

rrp from **£190**
UK Mainland Shipping Included
*Charges for Highlands & Islands may apply

Compost Even More: Weeds | Meat | Small Bones | Garden Waste | Cooked Food

HOTBIN® composting

hotbincomposting.com
freephone: 0808 168 8499

Gardeners' World magazine BEST BUY Compost bins January 2014 *Awarded to the 200l HOTBIN

RHS CHELSEA GARDEN PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2019 WINNER

WILKINSON SWORD

ultralight

10 YEAR GUARANTEE

COMFORTABLY PRUNE HARD-TO-REACH AREAS WITH THE LIGHTWEIGHT

LONG REACH PRUNER

- Easy grip rotates for easier access to foliage at different angles
- Slice through stems up to 22mm thick
- Grip & hold branches after cutting

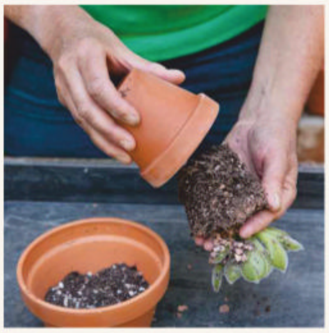
UP TO 50% LIGHTER THAN STANDARD
STRONG AND EXPERTLY CRAFTED GARDEN TOOLS

To find out more visit: wilkinsonsword-tools.co.uk

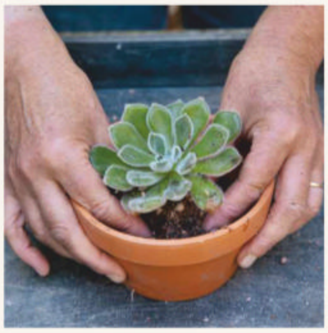
STEP BY STEP

Repot echeveria

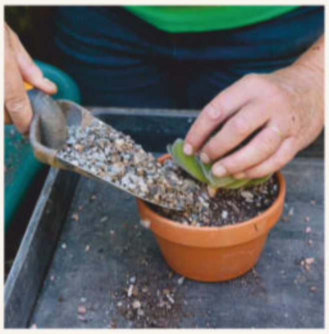
Give an echeveria more space once you see that its rosette of leaves is wider than its pot. Choose a new pot that gives it room to grow further and produce new plantlets at the base. Use a 50:50 mix of John Innes no.2 compost and grit. If you put echeverias outside for the summer, get ready to bring them in next month.



1 SUPPORT any loose compost with your hand as you tip the plant upside down and slide off the pot. If it sticks, water the plant and it should come away easily.



2 PUT some gritty compost in the base of the new pot, then position the plant in the centre. Fill around the roots with the compost and tap the pot to settle it.



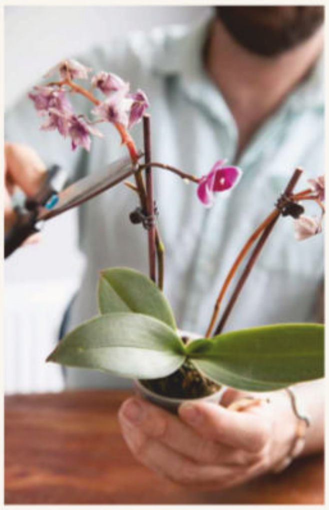
3 LEAVE the compost surface lower than the rim, then add a layer of clean coarse grit to improve the drainage around the crown of the plant.

Keep leafy foliage plants healthy while you're on holiday by grouping them in the bath and giving them a light shower

Holiday care for house plants

Make sure your plants don't dry out if you're going away for more than a few days. Many can simply be watered where they are and left with no issue for several days.

But leafy house plants such as ferns will fare much better grouped together in the bath. Then give the plants a gentle shower to raise the humidity around them. Bathrooms usually have stippled windows that provide indirect light, which is ideal too. For extended trips, soak a towel underneath them for longer-lasting moisture and humidity.



Cut back faded flower stems to a healthy node or side-shoot

Prune moth orchids

Cut back the flower stems of moth orchids once the blooms are over. If the stem is firm and healthy, prune back to two nodes to encourage a sideshoot to grow, which will bear more flowers.

If the whole flower stem has withered, cut it back to the base and wait for a new stem to emerge from the crown. But keep the original support cane to reuse once any new stems are long enough.

Keep moth orchids in good health by watering weekly, adding an orchid feed every other week.

DON'T FORGET

- ☐ **Regularly mist air plants to keep them hydrated**
- ☐ **Top up a bromeliad's central well to keep it looking vibrant**
- ☐ **Divide peace lilies that are bursting out of their pots**
- ☐ **Start watering dormant cyclamen to bring them back into growth**

WORDS: ROSIE YEOMANS. PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE

BREWING VINEGAR THE PROPER WAY SINCE 1794
CRAFT BREWED*
SINCE 1794
SARSON'S®
MALT VINEGAR
SARSONS
BREWED FOR FOOD

Cabbages are ready to be planted outside when they are 10-15cm in height and have 4-6 true leaves

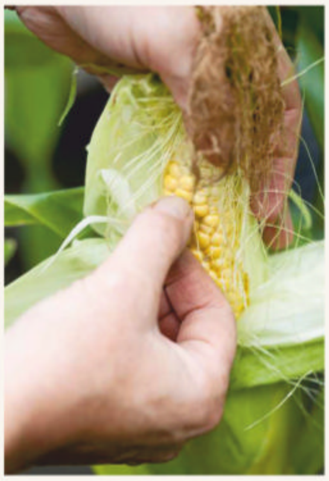
Plant out spring cabbages

Get spring cabbages into ground that's been cleared of weeds but not dug over, as all brassicas grow best in firm ground. If you have acidic soil, liming early in winter also helps with this group of plants.

Different varieties of spring cabbages need specific spacing, so check and expect that they'll need at least 30cm between plants and 45-60cm between rows. You could harvest every other plant as immature greens. Plant them right up to the first set of true leaves, firm well and water them in.

DON'T FORGET

- ☐ **Tie in squashes and climbing beans**
- ☐ **Cut back potato tops hard if they show signs of blight**
- ☐ **Remove leafy crops that have gone to seed**
- ☐ **Plant sprouting broccoli in firm soil**
- ☐ **Prune summer raspberries that have finished fruiting**



Pierce a kernel to check if your sweetcorn is ready to pick

Inspect sweetcorn

Sweetcorn cobs are generally ready to harvest any time after the old flower at the top has turned dark brown, but it's best to give it a further look before you start picking.

Pull back the leafy sheath at the top of the cob and use your fingernail to press into a kernel to check the sap: if the sap is milky, it's ripe; if it's clear, the cob needs a little longer. In warm weather, this can change in a day, so keep checking and pick as soon as you see the milky sap.

Harvest nasturtiums

Snip off the flowers of nasturtiums to liven up salads and desserts. The flowers have a pleasant, peppery taste while the young leaves, also edible, are stronger.

Harvest them into a punnet with a lid rather than a bag so they don't crush and, once back in the kitchen, wash them to remove any resident bugs such as thrips and let them air dry. They don't keep for long, so harvest them as you need them rather than trying to store them for more than a day or two.

Use nasturtiums in salads soon after picking for the best flavour

Thin beetroot

Thin out beetroot seedlings that you are growing on to pick this winter. Press the fingers of one hand on the ground around the plant you want to keep and pull out the seedlings with the other hand, leaving about 4-5cm between each remaining seedling.

Collect your pickings and give them a good wash. The whole plant, roots and all, can be used in a salad or cooked like spinach. Water the row to settle the remaining seedlings back in the ground.

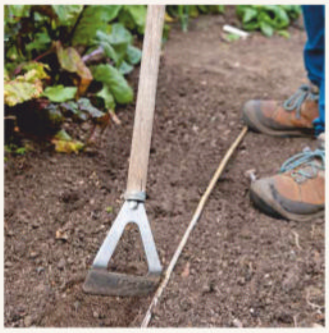
Beetroot seedlings make tasty and colourful additions to dishes

WORDS: ROSIE YEOMANS PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS

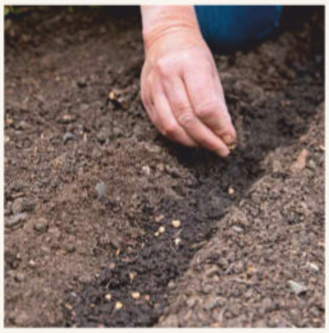
STEP BY STEP

Grow spinach

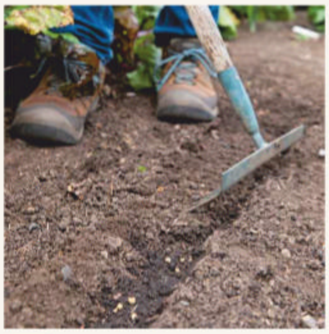
Sow perpetual spinach now for a crop that will last through winter and fill the 'hungry gap' early next spring. The warm soil now means germination takes just five days and establishment will be fast too, so there's plenty of time for plants to get big enough to crop from late autumn. Keep the row well watered.



1 MAKE a 2cm-deep drill using a taut string line or a straight cane as an edge to draw the blade of a hoe along. Soak along the open drill.



2 SOW seeds every few centimetres or simply straight down the row – surplus seedlings can then be thinned at 20cm and used in salads.



3 RAKE the soil back over the seeds and gently tamp along the row with the back of the rake to give the seeds good contact with the moist soil underneath.

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS; JASON INGRAM

Cropping tomatoes depends on the variety, so check them every few days and pick with stalk attached

Harvest outdoor tomatoes

Pick tomatoes that have ripened on outdoor plants. You know they're ripe when the fruits have coloured and the flesh gives slightly to the touch. Cup the fruit in your hand and twist or snip off the truss rather than tugging it, which can pull the stem down on the cane and damage the plant.

Check that your tomato plants are free of the black blotches of late blight that can ruin the crop. Help to avoid it by not allowing water to splash onto the foliage at this time in the season.

Give herb plants a tidy-up now to encourage more leaves

Cut back herbs

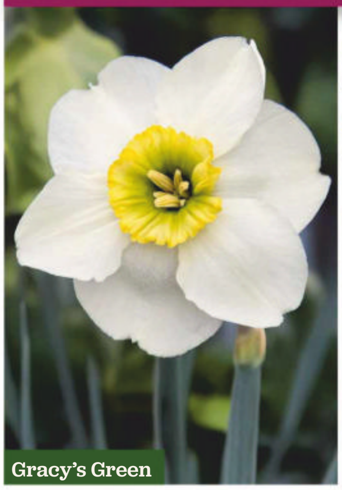
Snip herb plants in the garden, particularly if they've flowered. Even if you don't plan to use those leaves, pruning them back now will encourage one more flush of fresh young growth that you can crop in a month's time.

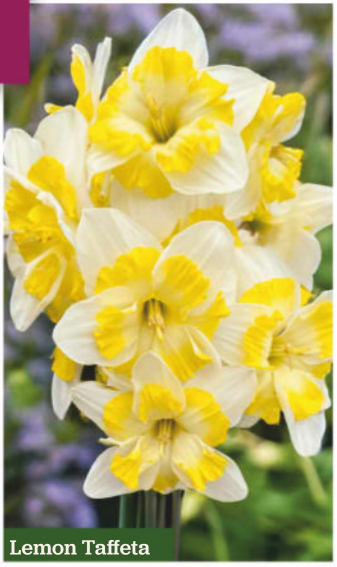
For every stem you cut back, several new laterals will grow back to make the plant more bushy, so this is a task that is especially good to carry out on young plants. Let annuals such as dill and coriander go to seed. They won't bush out at this stage and you can collect the seed for next year.

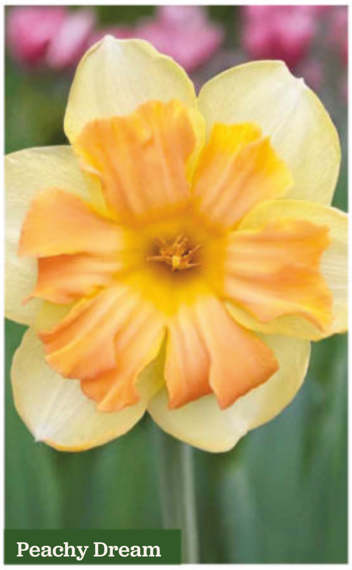
Next month!

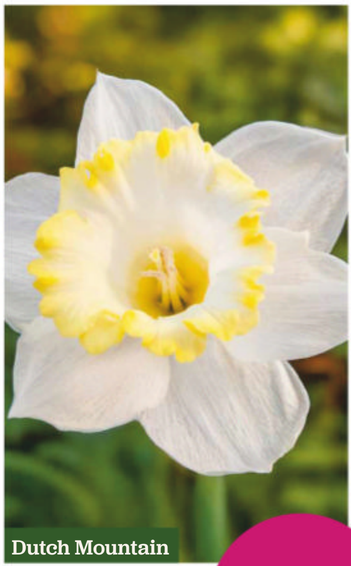
- ☐ Harvest aubergines in the greenhouse
- ☐ Start planting spring bulbs in gaps
- ☐ Sow salads for winter harvests

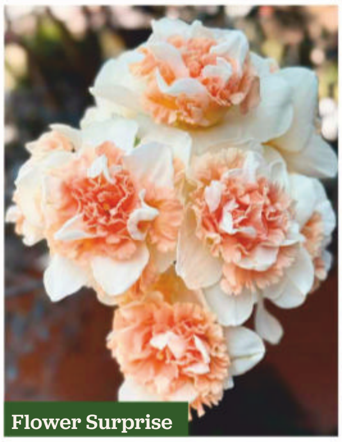
Gardeners' World offer

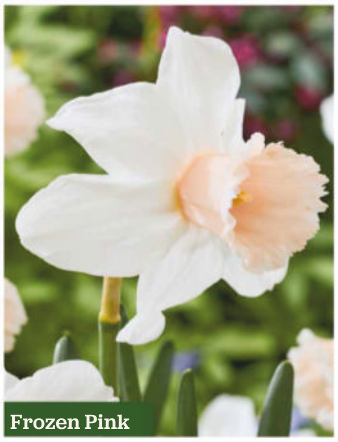

Gracy's Green

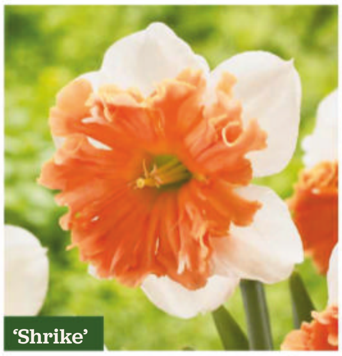

Lemon Taffeta

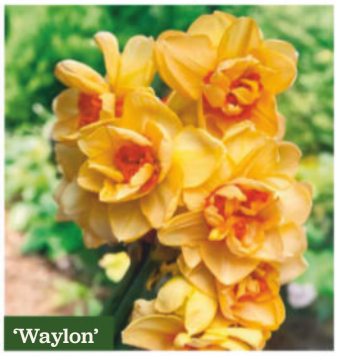

Peachy Dream

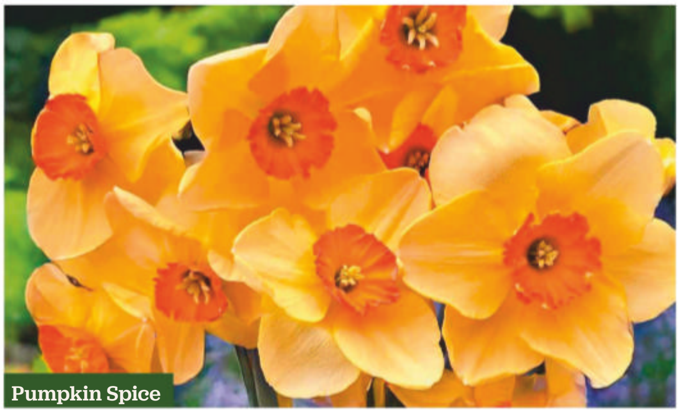

Dutch Mountain


Flower Surprise


Frozen Pink


'Shrike'


'Waylon'


Pumpkin Spice

LIMITED STOCK

Save 15% on daffodils

Plan ahead to secure your daffodils for a vibrant burst of colour in spring. Farmer Gracy's collection includes new, rare and exclusive varieties you won't want to miss. Order now and take advantage of a 15% discount on all narcissus bulbs to make sure you save money and have something special to look forward to next year.

NEW! ■ Gracy's Green
An elegant, contemporary bloom with ivory-white petals and an unusual green corona.
Height x Spread 40cm x 15cm
Flowers Apr-May
3 bulbs ~~£7.50~~ **£6.38**

NEW! ■ Lemon Taffeta
A split-corona daffodil with white petals and a ruffled, cream centre edged in bright yellow.
H x S 40cm x 15cm **F** Apr-May
3 bulbs ~~£9.90~~ **£8.42**

NEW! ■ Peachy Dream
Ribbed, split corona in salmon pink and golden yellow.
H x S 40cm x 15cm **F** Apr-May
5 bulbs ~~£9.75~~ **£8.29**

NEW! ■ Dutch Mountain
A cross between classic daffodils 'Dutch Master' and 'Mount Hood'. Yellow rim on its corona.
H x S 40cm x 15cm **F** Feb-Mar
3 bulbs ~~£9.60~~ **£8.16**

NEW! ■ Flower Surprise
Fragrant peony-like flowers in warm tones of salmon to melon, framed by ivory outer petals.
H x S 40cm x 15cm **F** Apr
3 bulbs ~~£11.25~~ **£9.56**

NEW! ■ Frozen Pink
Pristine-white petals, with a salmon-pink cup edged in white, fringed ruffles.
H x S 30cm x 15cm **F** Apr
3 bulbs ~~£9.90~~ **£8.42**

■ 'Shrike'
White outer petals and a split corona in salmon-pink to orange. RHS Award of Garden Merit.
H x S 40cm x 15cm **F** Mar-Apr
5 bulbs ~~£6.25~~ **£5.31**

■ 'Waylon'
Rich, coppery shades of orange, layered like molten silk. Blooms stand strong on sturdy stems.
H x S 40cm x 15cm **F** Apr
3 bulbs ~~£11.25~~ **£9.56**

NEW! ■ Pumpkin Spice
Amber-yellow petals and a flattish cup in a rich pumpkin-orange tone.
H x S 40cm x 15cm **F** Apr-May
5 bulbs ~~£9.75~~ **£8.29**

2 EASY WAYS TO ORDER

View the full range at
farmergracy.co.uk/daffodils
*Use code **GWAUG25*** *Please add £4.99 P&P to your order*

Scan QR code and enter code ***GWAUG25*** at checkout

FARMER GRACY

Terms & conditions Offer ends 31 August 2025. Despatch August/September. Discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount code. Payment taken at time of ordering. While stocks last.

TOWN &
COUNTRY

LOVE LIFE OUTDOORS

Dragonfly Cloggies®

- Feel comfortable with the versatile slip-on footwear
- Keep dry with the waterproof exterior
- Slip-resistant & contoured design
- Various sizes available

Discover the
Dragonfly Collection

townandco.com

ARS

MAKE CUTTING YOUR HEDGE THE EASIEST JOB IN THE GARDEN

ARS-KR-1000
PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SHEARS

- Super lightweight and well balanced.
- Ergonomically shaped grip.
- Thermally treated high carbon steel.
- Hard chrome plating.

ONLY £107.29 *(inc VAT)*

Get a **FREE pair of ARS-VS-8XS professional secateurs** *(worth £57.01)* when using code **FREEGW0725**

ARS-180ZF TELESCOPIC PRUNER 3M

- Aluminium pole shaft.
- Extremely lightweight.
- Cuts stems up to 20mm thick.
- Japanese steel cutting blades.

ONLY £129.29 *(inc VAT)*

Get a **FREE pair of ARS-VS-8XS professional secateurs** *(worth £57.01)* when using code **FREEGW0725**

Not interested in our bundle deals? Use code 15GW0725 to get 15% off all ARS products

Platinum Trusted Service Award 2025 feefo

Scan here or visit us online to view the entire range of ARS products at **www.sorbus-intl.co.uk**

SORBUS

Only one coupon code can be used per purchase. Codes cannot be combined in a single order. Codes can be used on separate orders as many times as desired.

Make a Metre Matter

Get composting

Making garden compost is an easy way to reduce your carbon footprint. One compost bin can save an average of 150kg of waste per year from going to landfill – where it would have released methane, a potent greenhouse gas, as it decomposed – and turns it into a valuable resource to improve your soil and support your garden's valuable ecosystems.

Compost heaps and bins provide superb habitats for a wide range of wildlife, from the smallest beneficial microorganisms up to larger animals like grass snakes, toads and hedgehogs. And when you consider that the garden compost you produce can be used as a soil improver, a mulch or a base for potting mixes, then making your own really is a win-win situation.

What's more, it's very easy to make and just a single square metre is all the space you need.

Let Crocus help you Make a Metre Matter PLUS 20% off full-price plants with code GW20

We're delighted to have teamed up with Crocus, the official partner of our Make a Metre Matter campaign

Crocus wants to help you transform your metre into your own patch of garden paradise. As Crocus's Head Gardener Ashley Edwards highlighted as part of his mission to make a metre matter, "Good plant health starts with good soil". Which is why this month we're showing you how to make your own garden compost and improve your soil and your garden's ecosystem.

Crocus's range of plants and products are curated and designed by gardeners for gardeners, and this year the company launched its own branded potting compost. It's 100% peat-free and is the same formula used in Crocus's gold-medal-winning gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, as well as the huge range of plants raised in its nursery (over 7,000 species). Find out more at ***crocus.co.uk***

■ Everyone who registers at ***GardenersWorld.com/mamm*** will be entered into our prize draw* – the first entry drawn at random will win £1,000 of Crocus vouchers, while two runners up will win £500 Crocus vouchers each.

crocus
Making beautiful possible

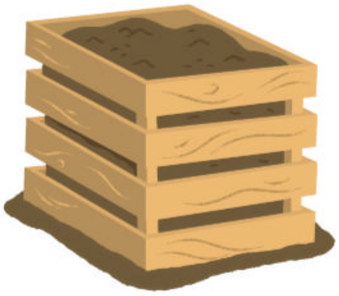
PHOTO: JASON INGRAM. ILLUSTRATION: GETTY

---

*PROMOTER: IMMEDIATE MEDIA COMPANY LONDON LIMITED (COMPANY NO. 06189487). RESIDENTS OF THE UK AND CHANNEL ISLANDS AGED 18+ CAN ENTER. FULL T&CS AT GARDENERSWORLD.COM/MAMM

Square-metre composting tips

Nic Wilson explains how to start making your own garden compost and the many benefits it brings



◀ YOUR BIN

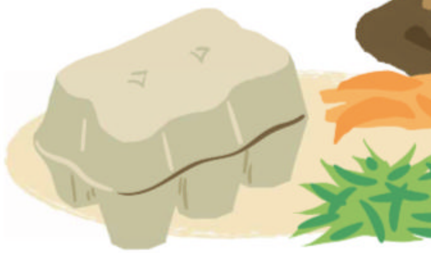
A wooden slatted bin keeps the garden waste and compost in and allows air circulation and access for wildlife. Kits are available to buy or you can build your own using old pallets or timber offcuts. Just a 1m x 1m bin could provide you with hundreds of litres of valuable garden compost every year.

▶ POSITIONING

A site in full or partial shade is best. The bin should ideally be placed directly on the soil so that beneficial creatures such as worms, other invertebrates and soil microorganisms have easy access to the contents. If your bin is on concrete or another hard surface, add a bucketful of soil before you start composting to introduce microorganisms that will aid decomposition.

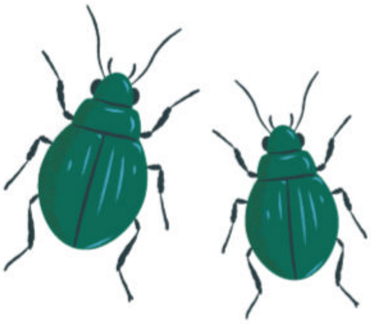
▶ ADDING WASTE

Once your compost bin is set up, start to add a combination of green waste, such as grass clippings and raw vegetable peelings, and brown waste, which includes torn-up cardboard, egg boxes and shredded hedge trimmings, in a ratio of about 1:1. This should create a mix that decomposes to form a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling compost.



▼ MICROORGANISMS

Microorganisms (or microbes) such as fungi, bacteria and actinomycetes (nitrogen-fixing bacteria) help to break down organic matter and turn it into garden compost. And when you use your homemade compost in the garden, these beneficial microbes continue to support healthy soil ecosystems and provide food for other soil organisms.



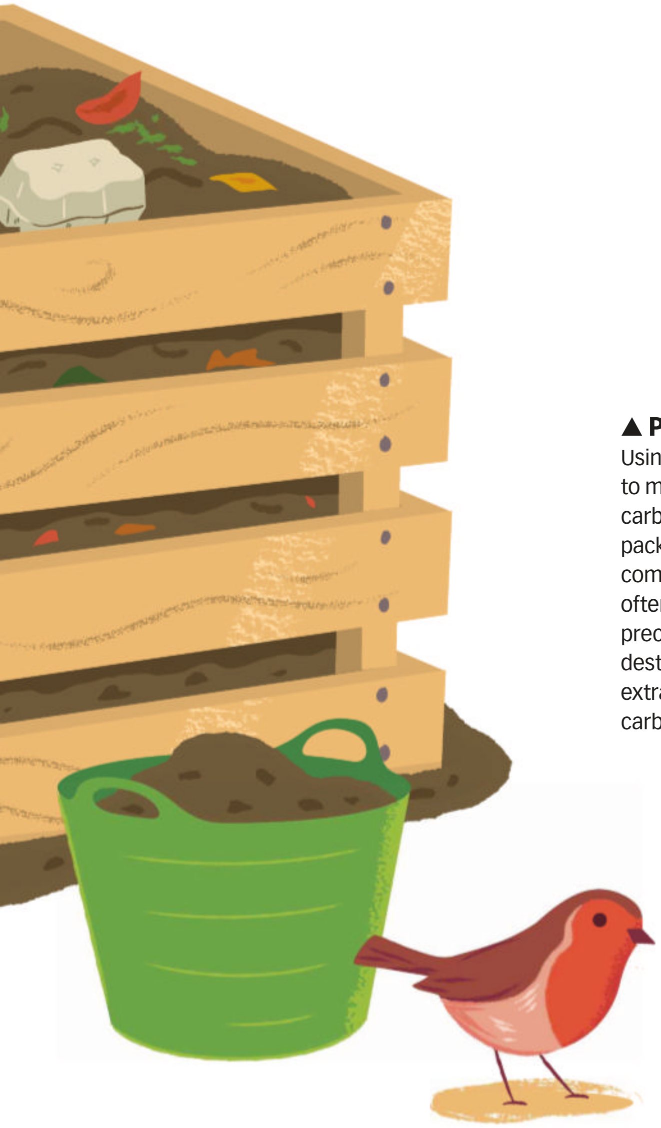
▲ DETRITIVORES

Detritivores (such as millipedes, beetle larvae and springtails) are animals that eat dead or decaying organic matter, especially plants. They play a crucial role in the compost ecosystem, breaking down plant matter and providing a food source for other animals, including spiders, beetles and hedgehogs.

ILLUSTRATIONS: IAN CUNLIFFE

▼ WILDLIFE HABITATS

Compost bins can also provide valuable habitats for mammals, reptiles and amphibians, which may hibernate or breed in your compost. Open heaps or slatted bins are best for access, but plastic bins can be raised up a little at the base so that animals like slow worms, hedgehogs and toads can get in and out.



▶ COMPOSTING WORMS

Small red composting (or brandling) worms are important detritivores – they break down organic matter and tunnel through the heap, creating cavities that enable water, air and nutrients to circulate, improving conditions for other beneficial organisms as they go.

▲ MULCHING

Mulching with garden compost adds some nutrients and micronutrients to the soil, while also conserving soil carbon. It helps to retain water as well, reducing the risk of flooding and benefiting plants during periods of drought, both increasingly common issues as our climate changes.

▲ POTTING MIX

Using garden compost as an ingredient to make your own potting mix avoids the carbon costs associated with producing, packaging and transporting bagged compost. Shop-bought potting mixes often contain peat, extracted from precious peatland habitats. As well as destroying important ecosystems, peat extraction releases huge amounts of carbon and can exacerbate flooding.

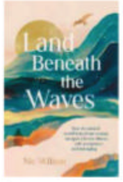
◀ HEALTHY ECO-SYSTEMS

Spreading garden compost as a 5cm-thick mulch in early spring or autumn provides food and shelter for many insects. These attract natural predators like birds that will also eat aphids and caterpillars. In this way, composting helps to avoid the need for pesticides and supports healthy ecosystems across the whole garden.

Dos & don'ts

- ✓ Do chop up large prunings as small as possible, so they break down more quickly
- ✓ Do make compost bins from old, untreated timber or use FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified sustainable wood
- ✓ Do look for plastic bins made from recycled materials
- ✓ Do wear gloves to handle compost, and if you turn your heap, moisten the compost and wear a dust mask
- ✓ Do check the heap for wildlife if you decide to turn it and do it in early spring before creatures like slow worms have started breeding

- ✗ Don't think your garden is too small to make compost – you could use a compact compost bin or a wormery
- ✗ Don't worry if you find slugs and snails in your compost – they play an important role in breaking down dead material
- ✗ Don't use synthetic pesticides in the garden, as some residues could persist and contaminate your compost
- ✗ Don't add treated wood to the compost bin, to avoid introducing chemicals that could harm beneficial creatures in the compost



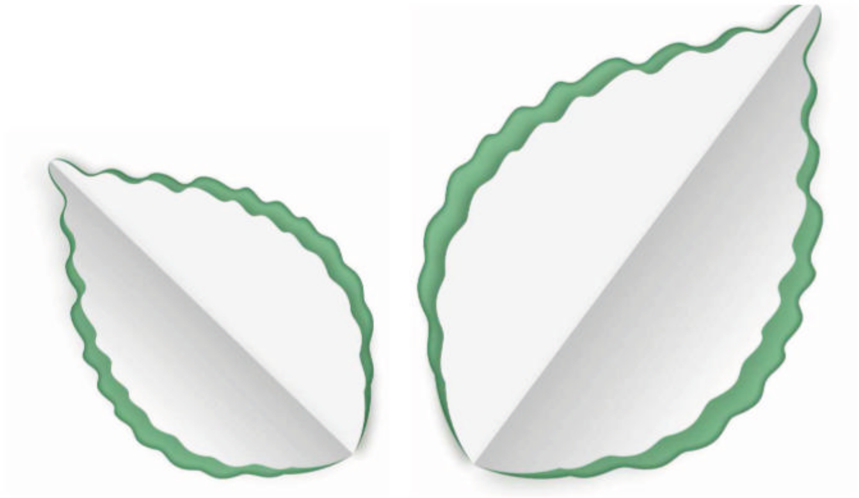
■ **Nic Wilson** is the author of *Land Beneath the Waves* (Summersdale, £18.99)

SHOW US YOUR METRE!
Share transformed metres on your social channels by tagging us with ***@gardenersworldmag***, or by using the hashtag ***#MakeAMetreMatter*** – we'll share favourites on our feeds to celebrate your fantastic creations.

Make a Metre Matter

Next month

An in-depth look at Nick Bailey's garden at GW Live



PAPER LOVES TREES

European forests, which provide wood for making paper, paper packaging and many other products, have been growing by 1,500 football pitches every day!

Source: Two Sides Analysis of FAO data, 2005-2020
European Forests: EU27 + Norway, Switzerland and the UK

Discover the story of paper
www.lovepaper.org
Scan for paper facts, activities, blogs and much more!

LOVE PAPER®

Taste of the tropics

Bring exotic drama to your garden with 19 pages of inspiration

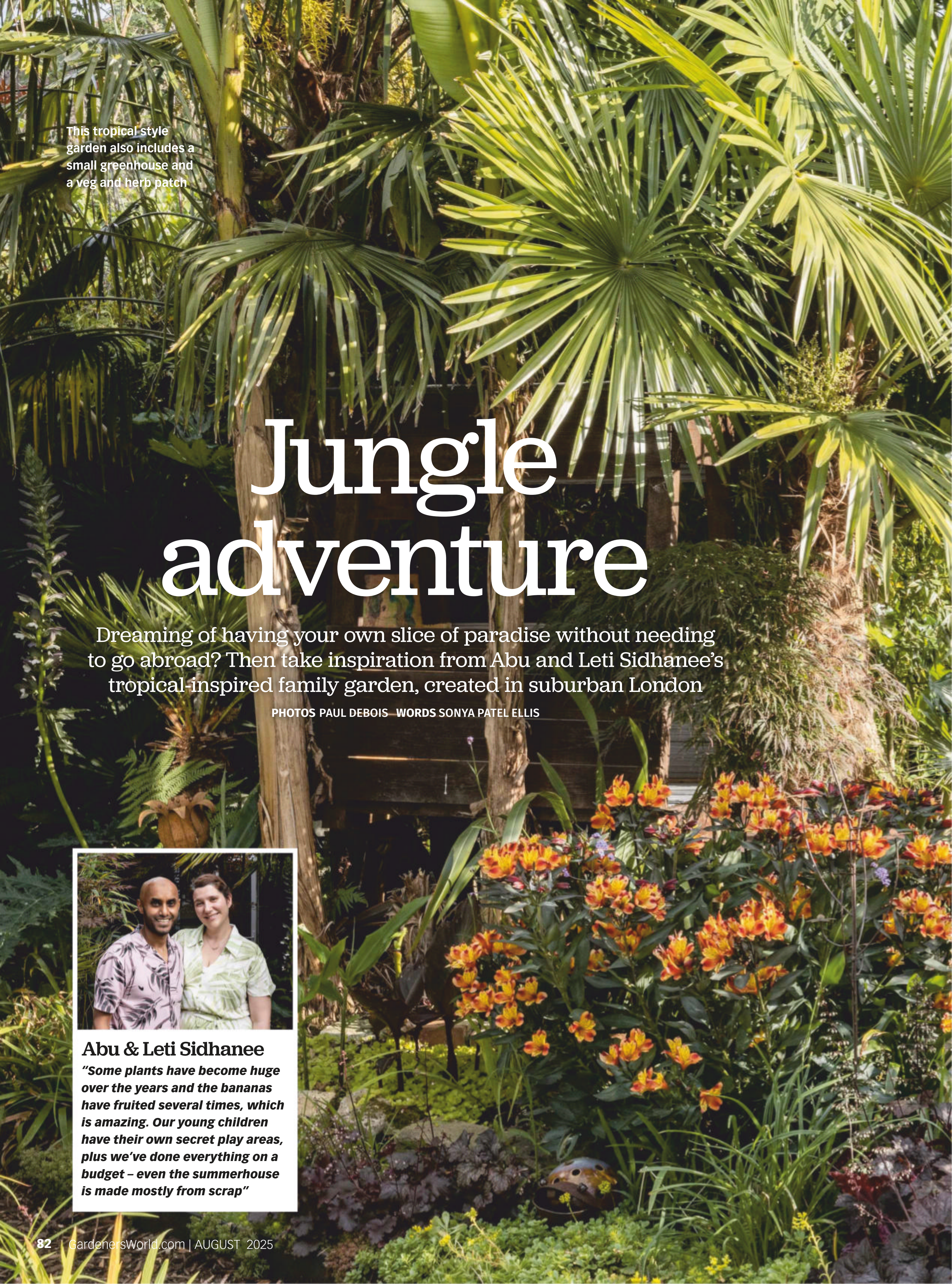
82 Jungle inspiration
See how our Gardens of the Year finalists made their suburban paradise

90 Exotic edge
Discover expert tips and plant choices to help you create a lush oasis at home

98 Adam Frost's holiday pots
Bring back happy memories with plants inspired by your travels

104 Global influences
Add a splash of Caribbean style with inspiration from St Lucia

PHOTOS: ALAMY/IMAGEBROKER.COM; PAUL DEBOIS; NEIL HEPWORTH; JASON INGRAM



This tropical style garden also includes a small greenhouse and a veg and herb patch

Jungle adventure

Dreaming of having your own slice of paradise without needing to go abroad? Then take inspiration from Abu and Leti Sidhanee's tropical-inspired family garden, created in suburban London

PHOTOS PAUL DEBOIS **WORDS** SONYA PATEL ELLIS

Abu & Leti Sidhanee

"Some plants have become huge over the years and the bananas have fruited several times, which is amazing. Our young children have their own secret play areas, plus we've done everything on a budget – even the summerhouse is made mostly from scrap"

Gardens of the Year
COMPETITION 2024
sponsored by Alpen

For the

PARTY-READY GARDENS

Get the job done faster and neater with Webb's easy-to-use garden tools

Robust - for larger lawns...

£399.99
INC VAT

WER510ES
Webb Classic 51cm (20") Self Propelled Electric Start Petrol Lawn Mower

Featuring a 173cc Webb DVO173 engine with an electric start, this mower is perfect for larger gardens, offering versatile cutting options and a spacious 65-litre collection bag.

For Medium Lawns

WAS ~~£249.99~~
£199.99
INC VAT
PRICE DROP

WER410SP
Webb WER410SP Classic 41cm (16") Self Propelled Petrol Lawn Mower

Offering effort-saving self-propelled and boasting a compact 41cm working width.

Get ready for Autumn...

£99.99
INC VAT
LIGHT WEIGHT

WEECS402200
Webb WEECS402200 40cm (16") 2200 Watt Electric Chainsaw

This lightweight, easy-to-use chainsaw is ideal for cutting small trees, pruning branches, and preparing firewood with smooth, clean cuts.

Perfect stripes...

£149.99
INC VAT
REAR ROLLER

WEER40RR
Webb Supreme 40cm (16") Electric Rotary Lawn Mower with Rear Roller

This classic rear roller not only creates attractive striped patterns on your lawn but also offers stability and control as you manoeuvre the mower.

Cordless Battery Range

One battery fits all!

WEV20PSB2
Webb Eco 20V Cordless Axial Blower
£79.99 INC VAT
(1x 4AH Battery & Charger included)

WEV20LTB2
Webb Eco 20V 30cm Line Trimmer
£84.99
INC VAT
(1x 2Ah Battery & Charger included)

Webb Brochure
SCAN ME

Gardeners' World magazine
BEST BUY
Cordless mower
May 2024

WEV20X2LM43B4X
Webb Eco 40V (2x 20v) 43cm Lawnmower
£279.99
INC VAT
LIGHTWEIGHT

Where power meets eco-friendliness.
Webb Eco brings you the might of petrol-powered equipment minus the noise, maintenance, and emissions.

LAWNMOWERS | HEDGE TRIMMERS | LINE TRIMMERS | GARDEN BLOWERS | CHAINSAWS | TILLERS

Webb
DESIGNED TO
PERFORM

Find out more from your **local approved Webb retailer** or **online:**
www.webbgardenpower.co.uk

All information is correct at the time of printing. Prices are subject to change without notice.

ELECTRIC
PETROL
CORDLESS

> “Great job for someone with no prior experience, and all done with scrap materials – very commendable” Irene Berry, GOTY 2023 finalist

When you start on the journey of creating a garden, it can take years to find exactly what works in which spot. But when Abu and Leti Sidhanee moved to the conservation area of Sutton Garden Suburb, they set themselves an additional challenge – to create an immersive tropical jungle inspired by their family holidays to Mauritius and Trinidad.

Some of the first plants they brought in were the fatsia, hardy bananas and palms that form the upper and middle layers of a rainforest-like canopy, helping to establish a microclimate for an ensuing understorey of lush foliage and exotic flowers.

The garden has also become a labour of love for multiple generations, with Abu's mum helping out in the first few years – then, as they started their own family, Abu's eldest daughter Sara has taken an interest in growing edibles and plants for wildlife.

The design has been adapted over the years to give the children places to play and explore – including a treehouse, mini veg patch and wildlife pond – and to accommodate tropical-style plants that could reliably survive winter frosts as well as warm or hot summers.

Despite the relatively small size of the garden, there are also places for relaxing and entertaining, including a summerhouse with a hammock, and several seating areas. Although Abu and Leti have now moved to Spain, their garden remains as a slice of paradise for those who will be living there during the years to come.

How big is your garden?

It's a small urban garden, probably around 200 square metres – quite compact. It's the smallest plot on our part of the Sutton Garden

❶ The small bridge to the summerhouse is a great place to observe wildlife in the pond

❷ Their children love getting involved in the garden and growing things

❸ Connecting with nature is the ideal way to relax and maintain wellbeing after a busy day

Gtech

The cordless super lightweight Hedge Trimmer LHT50

~~WAS £219.99~~
NOW £149.99
SAVE
£70
FREE NEXT
DAY DELIVERY

Use code: **MT79**

Keep your shrubbery in shape with the LHT50 – Gtech's ultra lightweight cordless hedge trimmer.

Super light, super powerful

The LHT50 is a third lighter than the HT50 - Gtech's original HT50 hedge trimmer however, with the same powerful motor and 10-ft reach, stunning results are still easily achievable. With seven different head positions, rotating 140°, getting your shrubbery in shape isn't a chore.

Superior design

We've combined premium quality materials and the best British design to create a superior hedge trimmer. Crafted from aluminium tubes, reinforced handles and with an ultra-sharp carbon steel blade, the LHT50 is cordless, hassle-free to use – and looks great too.

Impressive run time

A full charge will give you up to 60 minutes of run time*, providing the freedom to get the job done and then enjoy your garden. What's more, the battery pack is interchangeable between other Gtech gardening equipment giving you ultimate flexibility.

"Light as a feather"
I was pleasantly surprised as to how light the pole trimmer is. It must be the lightest one on the market.
Brian G ★★★★★

"Brilliant Hedge Trimmer"
Excellent Hedge Trimmer. Makes job of trimming and shaping hedges fast, accurate and enjoyable. I love this tool.
Louise W ★★★★★

"Excellent purchase"
It's easy to use and assemble, I am in my mid seventies and it is brilliant for the trees and hedges I couldn't reach. Much better than climbing on ladders.
Patricia B ★★★★★

Get the **LHT50** for just **£149.99** (RRP **£219.99**) saving **£70** if you order before 31/08/2025. Order now at **www.gtech.co.uk** call **0800 030 87 94** or scan the QR code:

Offers valid until 31/08/2025 or while stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 30-day money-back guarantee, excluding £10 collection fee. * Runtimes quoted may vary depending on condition of hedges being cut.

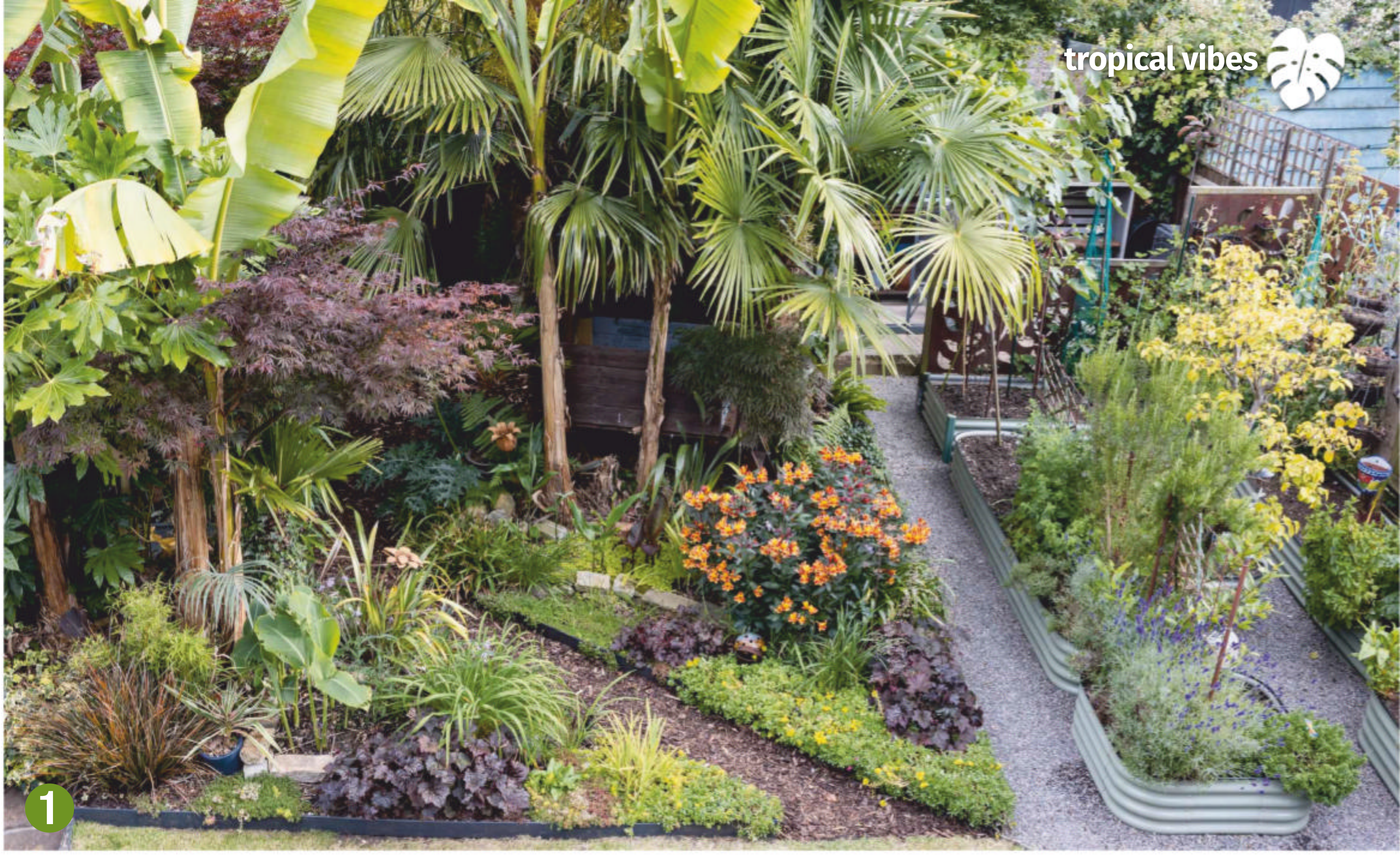
Inventor & Owner, Nick Grey
"The LHT50 is the ultimate lightweight hedge trimming solution. We've kept the power and reach of our previous HT50 model but reduced the weight of the blade by one third to provide a lighter, and easy to manoeuvre trimmer."
Nick

www.gtech.co.uk
Trustpilot ★★★★★
Gtech's rating is 4.8 out of **5** after **150,000 reviews**

dpd

Free tracked next day delivery and 2-year warranty

5737



① The garden has matured over the years to include upper and lower canopies and understorey areas

> *“It’s really fun, and normally I don’t like palm trees in suburban gardens, but it looks really authentic here. Everything feels like it fits”* **Oliver Hymans, GOTY 2023 finalist**

Suburb, which is horseshoe-shaped with a green in the middle and houses running around it.

How long have you lived here?

For over 15 years now, although we’ve recently moved to Spain.

What was your garden like when you moved in?

It was completely overgrown and very untidy. You couldn’t see the edges of the garden because of all the shrubs and trees. There were no ornamental plants – just grass. The only things still here from then are the shed and a concrete patio by the side of the house. Everything else is new.

What have you done to create your garden?

At first we just focused on tidying it up. Then we started planting at the back – putting in bamboos, palms and bananas – and over time it really evolved. We added a deck in the corner, which we later replaced, and we moved the plants around as they grew bigger. We also created a pond and a lower-level area, and eventually added a vegetable patch and a treehouse.

Over time the garden has really filled out. We’ve built layers of planting – tall bamboos to create a canopy, then mid-height plants, and lower-growing ones like hostas and lilies at the base. Now it really feels like a jungle – full of textures and interest.

What was the inspiration for your garden?

Tropical gardens! Our inspiration came from family holidays to Mauritius and Trinidad – lush, rainforest-style planting really appeals to us. We tried true tropical plants at first, but London’s winters were just too harsh. So we switched to hardy varieties that still look tropical – things like fatsia, hardy bananas and palms that give the same look but can survive the cold.

Interestingly, the garden now has its own microclimate. As the planting has filled out, the big leaves shelter the more tender plants. We used to have to dig things up and wrap them, but in recent years they’ve survived over winter with just a little mulch for protection.

Have you had any help along the way?

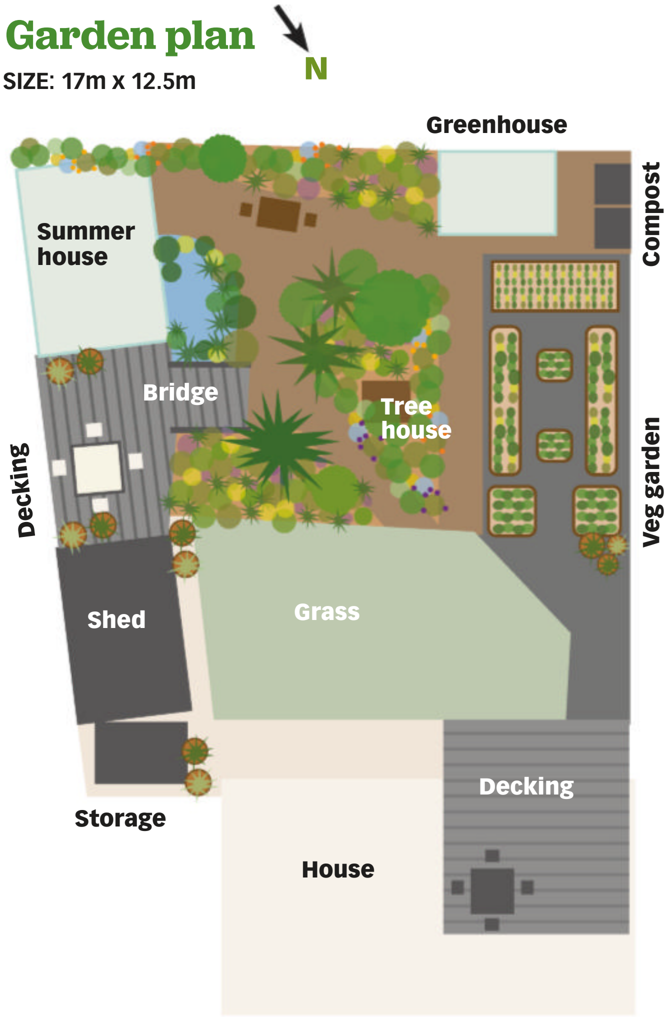
Mostly, we’ve done everything ourselves – it’s something we love. My mum helped in the early years and enjoyed it too. Now our daughter joins in, especially with watering and the veg patch. She tells everyone the bananas are growing because of her! The treehouse, for example, we built entirely from reclaimed timber – we didn’t buy anything new. It’s very much a family-made space.

② The summerhouse was made using recycled materials and includes a hammock and seating area

> *“My initial thoughts were that if you look from the lawn across, you’re on the edge of the jungle, anticipating what’s beyond. The planting is very bold with some amazing specimens”* **Clive Johnson-Cooper, GOTY 2023 winner**

Garden plan

SIZE: 17m x 12.5m



❶ **Abu built a treehouse for his children in the woodland area, where they can play and watch the birds**

❷ **Flashes of colour within a landscape of mainly lush green tropicals comes from orange Peruvian lilies and purple lavender**

Which elements are you most proud of?

Definitely the pond – we dug it ourselves and have extended it gradually. It looks so natural now – people often ask if it’s always been there! It attracts so much wildlife – frogs, birds, even newts, and we’ve added wildlife shelters nearby. The decking bridge creates the illusion that the water flows underneath it. The treehouse is another highlight – it’s for our daughter to play in, right in the middle of the ‘jungle’, and it blends naturally into the planting.

What were your biggest challenges?

It’s been a real learning curve getting the balance right between plants that give the tropical look and those that can survive in our climate. We’ve lost a lot of plants along the way. It’s taken 15 years to figure out what works here. At one point we were wrapping bananas in fleece every year and digging them up – that just wasn’t sustainable with kids!

Also, with limited space, there’s always a bit of compromise – the grass, for example, is just a small patch, really there for our daughter to play on.

What is your favourite part of the garden?

It’s hard to choose just one part, but I love the slope. From inside the house, you get a full view of the garden, and the layers of planting create a lush, immersive feel. At night – and in the darker days of winter – the lighting on the steps and under various plants makes the space even more magical.

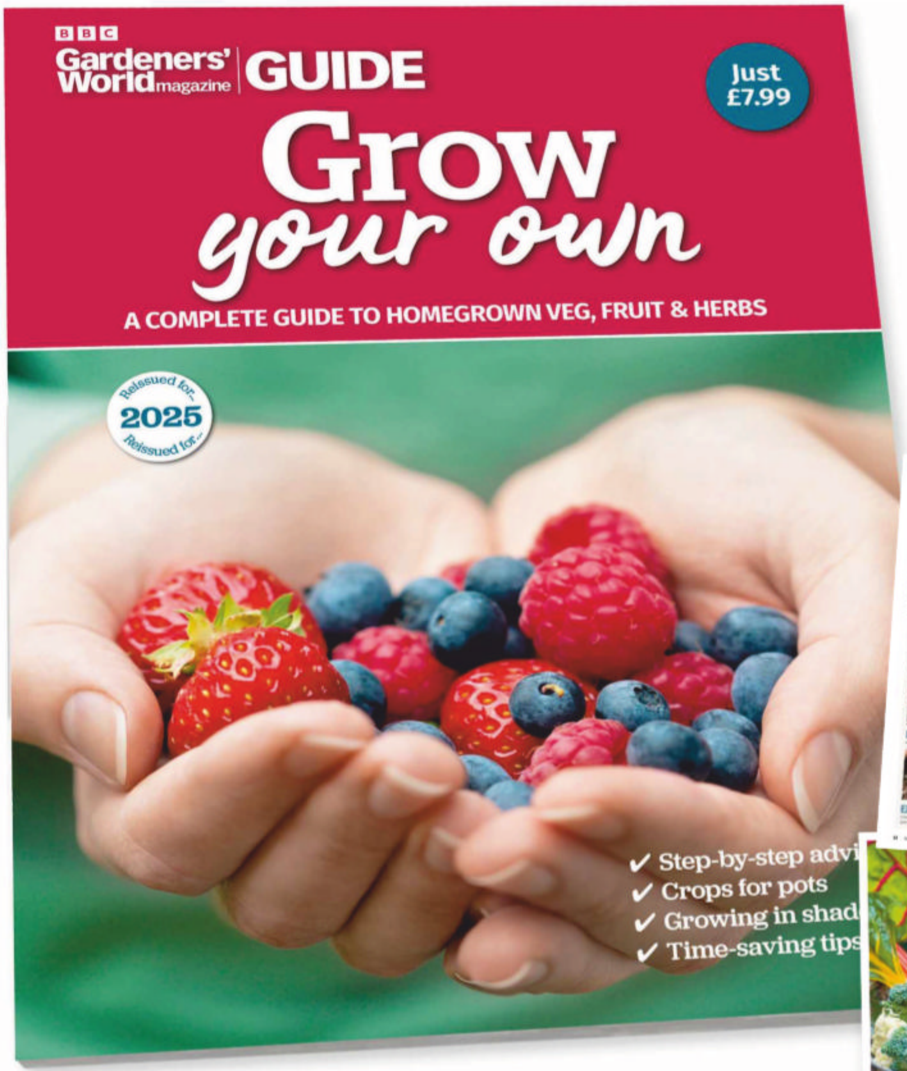
How do you use the garden on a daily basis?

We’re out in the garden every day – it’s part of our lives. We cook with herbs and veg grown in the garden and just enjoy relaxing out here after work. It’s where we process the day, potter, prune, think… or simply sit and feel like we’re somewhere tropical. It’s therapeutic and calming – our escape without leaving home.

Grow your own

ONLY £7.99

Your complete guide to growing your own garden-fresh fruits, vegetable and herbs



BBC Gardeners' World magazine | GUIDE

Just £7.99

Grow your own

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO HOMEGROWN VEG, FRUIT & HERBS

Reissued for... 2025 Reissued for...

✓ Step-by-step advi
✓ Crops for pots
✓ Growing in shad
✓ Time-saving tips

Inside this 132-page guide:

- ✔ Get started on your homegrown harvests
- ✔ Speedy crops for time-poor gardeners
- ✔ 60+ expert guides on hand-picked produce
- ✔ Growing in shade, containers and allotments
- ✔ Your yearly planner – when to sow and harvest

Growing from seed

Grow your own

Vegetables

5 of the best for a quick crop

Buy online while stocks last at ***bit.ly/guides-gw***

Subscribers save 25% on all *Gardeners' World* special edition guides, just enter your unique subscriber number at check out!

BBC Gardeners' World magazine | GUIDE

Many exotic-looking plants, including feathery tree ferns and giant-leaved *Tetrapanax papyrifer*, will thrive outdoors in sheltered settings

Tropical blend

Transform your garden into a lush exotic paradise with **Ashley Edwards**'s top plant choices, inspiration and care tips

PHOTO: NEIL HEPWORTH
LOCATION: FIELD HOUSE GARDEN, CHISWICK

Enjoy the sensory delights of tropical plants, with contrasting textures, vivid splashes of colour and exotic fragrances

Succulents such as spiral aloes need full sun and free-draining soil

Tropical plants have always fascinated me – I love their architectural leaves and vibrant colours. I have vivid memories of visiting the Palm House at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as a child and feeling like a tiny ant under the huge palm fronds. I would never have guessed that I would end up working in that very same Palm House as a Kew Diploma student.

Although you may not think exotic plants will grow successfully in the UK, many subtropical and tender plants do well with the right care and placement. Here I would like to share some tips on choosing plants that give the effect of a tropical garden, the best locations to plant them in and how to care for them. You don't need to have a huge glasshouse or a garden in full sun to grow plants that give a tropical vibe. By choosing the right leaf shapes and colours, you can create the same effect in a container or a shady area of your garden.

When we think of tropical plants, what comes to mind? It's usually large leaves, perhaps with variegation or even rich purple or blue-green hues. Deeply divided or lobed foliage also tends to provide a tropical look, and creates the perfect foil for the dazzling floral colours – reds, oranges, yellows and purples – that add the vibrancy found in the tropics. Unlike the traditional English cottage-garden style, which often includes many pastel hues and has a soft airy effect, tropical planting is dense and bold in both textures and colours.

These plants are generally from regions with frost-free, humid weather all year round. But many can also thrive in the UK, especially in mild locations. I've visited many gardens in Cornwall where tropical plants grow successfully, including The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Trebah, Trelissick and Glendurgan. These are all great gardens to visit for inspiration and

show what you can achieve on a large scale. Heligan includes a collection of impressive tree ferns – some of the biggest I've ever seen growing outdoors in the UK. Many of the plants in these gardens are from subtropical regions, and the mild coastal climate of Cornwall allows them to thrive.

When I was a student, I worked for a weekend at Great Dixter in East Sussex, in the subtropical garden – it was a fantastic experience where I learnt a lot about caring for tropical plants from Head Gardener Fergus Garrett. In the height of summer, the subtropical garden is a maze of foliage, growing in the place of what was once a traditional rose garden.

You may also not expect exotic plants to thrive as far north as Scotland, but in western areas the warming effect of the Gulf Stream can create useful planting opportunities. Inverewe, in Wester Ross, is a garden renowned for its many exotic plants – I was particularly impressed to see the houseleek tree (*Aeonium*

Caring for tropical plants

Some plants need a little extra care, others are hardy and easy to grow – follow Ashley's tips to get the best from these four exotic favourites

Palm-leaf begonia (*Begonia luxurians*)

This begonia is best used as underplanting, as it enjoys some dappled shade to prevent leaf scorch. It can grow up to 1.5m tall, so will need space. It's not frost hardy and must be kept above 5°C, so move it indoors over winter into a bright greenhouse or conservatory. When planting out, add a thick mulch of garden compost and give it an organic seaweed feed every two weeks for lots of lush foliage.

Keep begonias indoors over winter

Ginger lily (*Hedychium densiflorum*)

The deep orange, fragrant flower spikes appear from July and continue until the first frost if deadheaded. This plant grows to 1.2m tall, with glossy green sword-shaped leaves that work well contrasted against palmate leaves. In winter, cut back the faded foliage and apply a generous mulch to insulate the roots. It's reliably hardy and will sprout again in spring. You can dig up and divide the rhizomes every two to three years in spring.

Give ginger lilies a warm, sunny spot

Arundo donax versicolor

This plant is truly striking, up to 2.5m tall with boldly striped foliage. To get the best variegation, plant it in full sun. It needs moisture-retentive soil so grows well in bog gardens. Be warned that the rhizomes spread, so it's best to keep it in a container, sunk into the ground, or insert a root barrier around the clump. The stems can be pruned back in winter. Mulch with a thick layer of garden compost to protect the rhizomes from cold.

Plant arundo in sun for bolder stripes

Ricinus communis 'New Zealand Black'

This highly ornamental plant is prized for its deep purple foliage. It can be grown from seed sown indoors in March or April. Harden off and plant out once all risk of frost has passed. Plant in rich, moist soil and it will grow up to 2.5m in a single year. The leaves are easily damaged by wind, so give it a sheltered position. Every part of this plant is highly toxic, so don't grow it if you have children or pets.

Grow ricinus from seed in spring

PHOTOS: ALAMY/AVALON.RED; GETTY/MOONSTONE IMAGES; NEIL HEPWORTH (LOCATION: FIELD HOUSE GARDEN, CHISWICK); JASON INGRAM

WASHED & READY TO EAT
Florette
Crispy
Crunchy radicchio, delicate lambs lettuce and crisp frisée
STRONG
FARMER OWNED
FRESHNESS GUARANTEED
...or your money back!
See back of pack for details*
USE BY
KEEP REFRIGERATED
140g℮

UNLEASH SOME
leafy loveliness

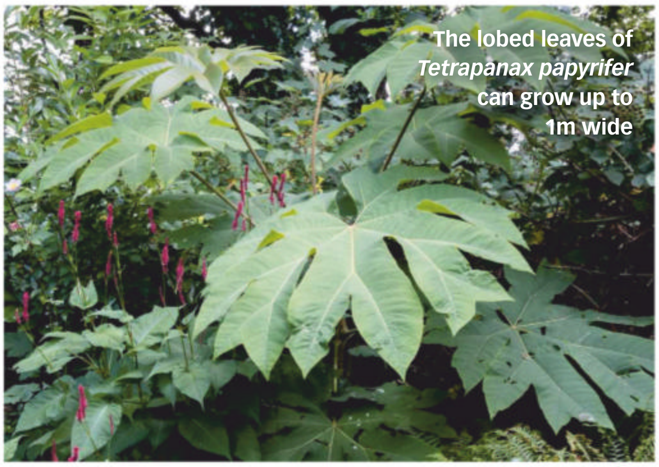
MAKE IT UN Florette ABLE

SCAN FOR
MORE RECIPE
INSPIRATION

Or visit: florettesalad.co.uk/recipes

At Heligan in Cornwall, the Jungle garden is a riot of tree ferns, umbrella-leaved gunneras and waterlilies

Add exotic drama to summer pots with *Aeonium arboreum* 'Atropurpureum'



The lobed leaves of *Tetrapanax papyrifer* can grow up to 1m wide

arboreum) and the spiral aloe (*Aloe polyphylla*) growing happily there in a gritty, free-draining border.

> *"In summer, you can move house plants outdoors, if sheltered from cold winds"*

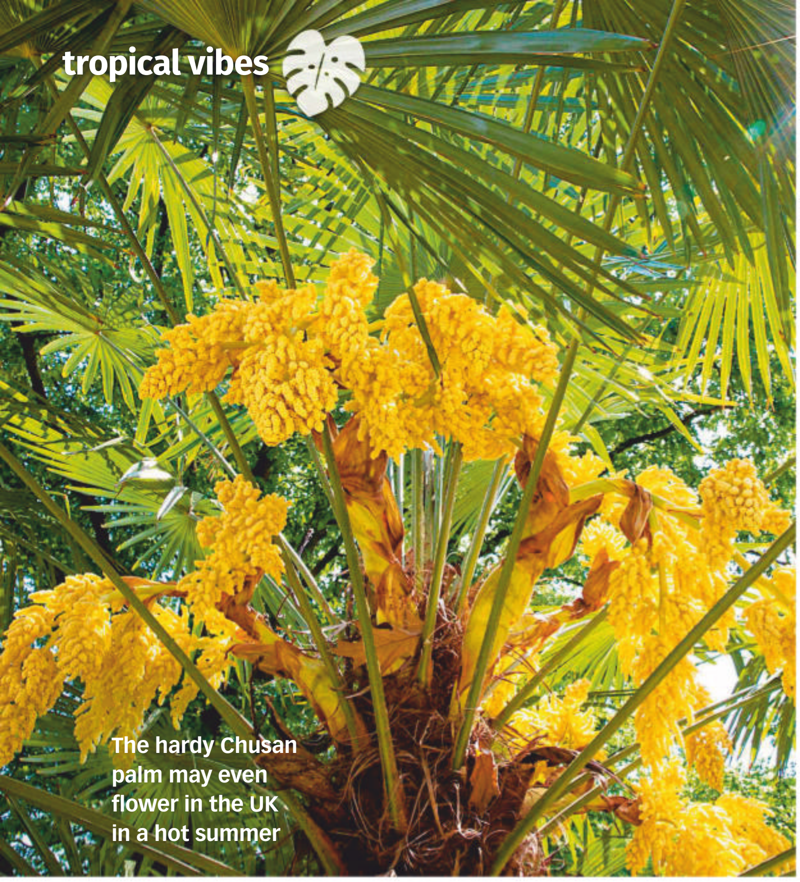
Plant choices

In the UK we usually grow truly tropical plants as house plants. Sansevieria, monstera or Swiss cheese plants, kentia palms, spider plants and peace lilies are popular, especially in the house plant revival of recent years. In summer, you can move these plants outdoors to create a tropical display, as long as you keep them sheltered from cold winds or extreme drops in temperature at night. And remember to bring them back inside in late summer.

There are also plenty of hardy plants that you can use to create the exotic structure needed for a tropical-style garden. One of my favourites is *Tetrapanax papyrifer* 'Rex' or the Chinese rice paper plant. It's a suckering shrub with leaves that can reach 1m across in the right conditions. The leaves are lobed and fuzzy to the touch, but the fine hairs can cause slight skin irritation in some people, so it's best not to plant it too close to a path. It usually works well at the back of a border. After a hard frost, it will die down to the base, then grow up again in spring. In a mild winter, the woody stems will lose their leaves but will re-sprout, maintaining the plant's height. *T. papyrifer* is a great choice as a backdrop for shorter perennials and dark-leaved plants.

Another plant I like is the honey bush, *Melianthus major*, which has large, grey-green, toothed leaves. These are water-repellent, capturing raindrops like small pearls, adding to their beauty. The plant will usually die back after a hard frost, but in most locations it will regrow from the base in spring. Even if the old stems survive winter, it's best to cut them to the ground to encourage a fresh burst of leaves, otherwise new foliage will mainly sprout from the top, giving a leggy appearance. The leaves smell

PHOTOS: PAUL DEBOIS; JASON INGRAM; LOST GARDENS OF HELIGAN


The hardy Chusan palm may even flower in the UK in a hot summer

Position banana plants in a sheltered spot, so wind doesn't shred the large leaves

Tropical annuals

Many annuals offer exotic foliage and vibrant flowers. They can be grown from seed and are great for containers, borders, small spaces and even balconies. When planting in pots, try a 'thriller, filler, spiller' combo, such as this:

***Ipomoea lobata* (Spanish flag)**
– a twining climber, ideal for growing up a wigwam. Its bright orange, red and yellow flowers make it a real thriller.

***Coleus scutellarioides* (coleus)**
– a brilliant foliage filler, with leaves in vivid colour combinations, from purple to lime and everything in between. It also flowers in late summer, but I prefer to pinch out the shoot tips to keep it bushy and producing fresh foliage.

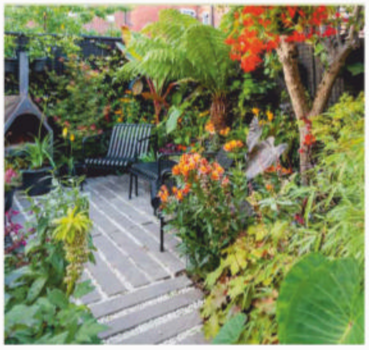
***Bidens ferulifolia* (bidens)**
– a scrambling plant often sold for hanging baskets, it will also trail over the edge of a pot. The variety 'Golden Goddess' is a good choice for its trailing habit, making a perfect spiller.

Planting and maintenance

You can plant several different annuals together in a large pot or keep them separate in individual pots grouped together. If you have a balcony, you could train annual climbers along the railings to really feel immersed.

Keep these plants well watered, especially in hot weather, and if you deadhead regularly they'll flower until the first frosts. Feed with a balanced fertiliser to keep them growing strongly.

Create vibrant container displays


Plant densely for a tropical effect

> *“Any of the hardy palm trees will give an instant tropical feel to your garden”*

of dry-roasted peanuts and the flowers smell of honey, giving the plant its common name. For year-round exotic-looking foliage, try *Euphorbia mellifera*, with zingy green leaves and burgundy flowerheads.

Big impact

Any of the hardy palm trees will give an instant tropical feel to your garden. The Chusan palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) has fan-shaped foliage and a hairy trunk, and mature specimens produce panicles of yellow flowers. One of the most spectacular choices, if you have a sheltered spot and lots of space, is the Chilean wine palm (*Jubaea chilensis*), which can grow a huge trunk. I occasionally spot them in front gardens and on roundabouts in London. Before Kew's Temperate House was restored, it was home to the tallest specimen in the UK.

The hardy Japanese banana (*Musa basjoo*) is one of the most impressive tropical herbaceous plants for UK gardens, growing up to 4m tall and 2.5m wide, with huge leaves up to 1.5m long. It's a must if you can give it the space it needs. In a mild winter it will lose its leaves, but in a harsh winter it will die down to the base. Established plants produce offsets, or new plants, at the base of the main stem, which you can pot up to increase your display or give to friends.

PHOTOS: ALAMY/JOERN SACKERMANN; SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS; NEIL HEPWORTH

Gardeners' World offer

CRUISING SOLO: RIVER ADVENTURES

Discover the joy of **solo travel** with scenic river cruises through Portugal and Germany – unwind, explore, and connect on your own unforgettable adventure

FREE travel wallet

Porto old town

The Douro, Porto & Salamanca

From £2,749pp – 7 nights, 8 Days. Departs from 1 Nov 2026*

Cruise one of Portugal's best-kept secrets to explore sleepy villages and medieval towns unchanged for centuries, among the breathtaking rolling hills and terraced vineyard slopes of the fascinating Douro Valley.

Experiences

- **Four visits** including **Mateus Palace Gardens**, **Castelo Rodrigo**, **Lamego** and a typical quinta with wine tasting
- Guided tour, lunch and a **flamenco show** in **Salamanca**
- Dinner at **Quinta da Pacheca** with a selection of wines
- Traditional **Portuguese folk music show**
- Guided tour of charming **Porto** and a visit to a port wine cellar

Castelo Rodrigo

Timetable

- **DAY 1** Arrival in Porto
- **DAY 2** Pinhao
- **DAY 3** Castelo Rodrigo
- **DAY 4** Salamanca
- **DAY 5** Mateus Palace Gardens or or Régua Douro Museum
- **DAY 6** Lamego
- **DAY 7** Porto
- **DAY 8** Return home

**More dates Nov 2025-Nov 2026*

Scan QR code for more info

Rothenburg

Bavaria & the Romantic Road

From £4,049pp – 7 nights, 8 days. Departs 19 August 2026*

Cruise the Main and Danube, discovering the aptly named Romantic Road, the twisting pebbled streets of medieval Bamberg, enchanting Rothenburg and Bavaria's second-largest city Nuremberg. Admire the scenery as you slowly cruise along the banks of the rivers.

Experiences

- **Seven guided tours** including **Mainz**, **Miltenberg**, **Wertheim**, **Würzburg**, **Ochsenfurt**, **Bamberg** and **Nuremberg**
- Drive along the **Romantic Road** to visit charming **Rothenburg**

Nuremberg

Timetable

- **DAY 1** Arrival in Mainz
- **DAY 2** Mainz
- **DAY 3** Miltenberg & Wertheim
- **DAY 4** Würzburg
- **DAY 5** Rothenburg & Ochsenfurt
- **DAY 6** Bamberg
- **DAY 7** Nuremberg
- **DAY 8** Return home

**More dates from August 2026*

Scan QR code for more info

Both cruises include ■ **Return flights** plus transfers ■ 7 nights onboard a **five-star ship** ■ Choice of spacious cabins with **window or French balcony** ■ Delicious **full-board dining**, plus **Captain's (Chef's in Germany) Dinner** ■ Welcome dinner and drinks ■ **Free drinks package**† ■ Complimentary on-board tea, coffee and **Wi-Fi** (connection speeds may vary) ■ **Five-star service** from an English-speaking crew and knowledgeable local guides ■ Services of our travel cruise director and concierge

TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO BOOK

rivieratravel.co.uk/gwd | ✆ **01283 901110** quoting **GWD**

†See Riviera Travel website for details of free drinks package. Riviera Travel reserves the right to remove departures from the offer at any time. Booking terms and conditions apply, as outlined at rivieratravel.co.uk/company-policies/booking-conditions. Offers may be withdrawn at any time and are subject to availability. Single supplements apply. Offers operated by, and your resulting contract will be with, Riviera Travel Ltd, ABTA V4744, ATOL3430. Prices are based on two people sharing and are correct at the time of print – see rivieratravel.co.uk/docs/terms for full details. Additional entrance costs may apply. Terms and conditions apply. Option to add extra nights or excursions to your holiday at an extra cost – see website.

Which? Recommended Provider

RIVIERA TRAVEL

Growing exotic plants that remind you of your travels will put you in a holiday mood whenever you see them

Holiday pots at home

Instantly liven up an outdoor eating area, patio or balcony with a collection of holiday-inspired containers. **Adam Frost** shares how to bring a touch of the tropical into your garden

PHOTO: JASON INGRAM

For me, having plants in containers scattered throughout the garden creates wonderful moments, whether the pots are full-on focal points or just a pause as you move through the garden. They're a simple yet highly effective way to create different atmospheres and seasonal interest – and in some cases they can transport you to other parts of the world via exotic foliage, flowers or scents. Pots are also great for pushing planting boundaries, allowing you to grow some more unusual options.

Over the years I've built up a collection of what I call my 'holiday pots', for two reasons. Firstly, they're full of plants inspired by my travels abroad. Secondly, being plants that often come from warmer climates, some need to take their own winter break in the greenhouse, safe from the worst of the British weather. These holiday pots are a great way of adding diversity to my planting mix, plus they give me the chance to keep experimenting with plants, playing with shapes, forms, colours and textures. They create lovely collections and just help me to get the most out of my garden.

I've been fortunate enough to travel to several tropical and subtropical countries, and I always come home with a 'maybe' planting list… could I grow this or that in my garden? There's always something that catches my eye.

Playing with my collection of 'holiday pots' brings the excitement of those travels into my garden and lets me try growing plants that remind me of those beautiful destinations, and time spent with Mrs Frost

Cobra lilies can reach 60-90cm tall, with slender stems that may need supports

Pot up *Coleus argentatus* into free-draining compost and keep in light shade

Coleus argentatus

Native to Australia

This low-growing shrub has striking foliage with a silvery sheen and soft texture. The leaves are rounded and somewhat fuzzy, creating a beautiful contrast, especially when paired with darker or more vibrant plants. It also produces small purple or pale-blue summer flowers that add a subtle but lovely pop of colour against the leaves.

Conditions-wise, this plant prefers bright, indirect light and free-draining soil or compost. It is relatively easy to care for, thriving in moderate temperatures and requiring only occasional watering. Although relatively drought tolerant in hotter spells, it's not frost hardy, so I grow it in a container and move it indoors over the winter months.

A terracotta pot complements the red stems and orange flowers of *Begonia sutherlandii*

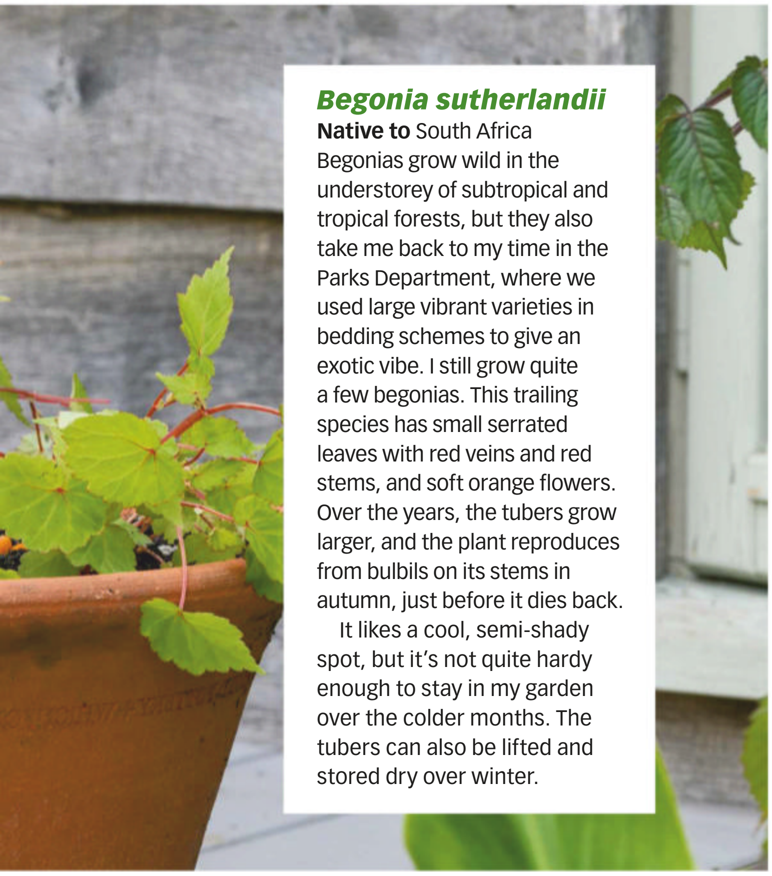
PHOTOS: ALAMY/STEFFEN HAUSER/BOTANIKFOTO, SUGANYA SOPAT, NEIL HEPWORTH; JASON INGRAM

Arisaema taiwanese

Native to Taiwan

If I'm honest, when a mate first gave me a few of these cobra lilies, I wasn't 100 per cent on them. I started growing them and they were a bit hit and miss. However, the more I persisted and learned about them, the more they fascinated me and I was hooked. They're grown from tubers and start off as males but when they mature, they become female! This one produces large glossy-green leaves on the top of each stem and unique hooded flowers that look like cobras.

It grows well in a cool, shaded spot in moist but free-draining compost. It's not fully hardy in my climate, so I keep it in my greenhouse over winter.



Begonia sutherlandii

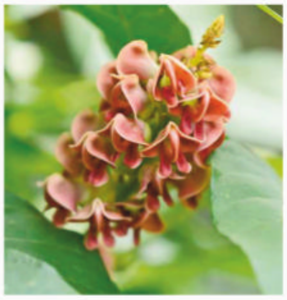
Native to South Africa

Begonias grow wild in the understorey of subtropical and tropical forests, but they also take me back to my time in the Parks Department, where we used large vibrant varieties in bedding schemes to give an exotic vibe. I still grow quite a few begonias. This trailing species has small serrated leaves with red veins and red stems, and soft orange flowers. Over the years, the tubers grow larger, and the plant reproduces from bulbils on its stems in autumn, just before it dies back.

It likes a cool, semi-shady spot, but it's not quite hardy enough to stay in my garden over the colder months. The tubers can also be lifted and stored dry over winter.

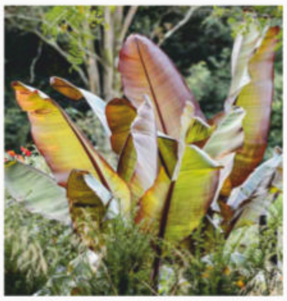
5 more exotic treasures for holiday pots

1 Potato bean (*Apios americana*)



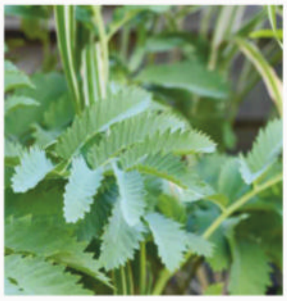
Location Sun or partial shade
Native to North America
Why grow it? The flowers on this climber are beautiful and the tubers are edible.
Need to know After a few years in a pot, you can harvest the largest tubers, then repot the smaller ones.

2 Ethiopian black banana (*Ensete ventricosum* 'Maurelii')



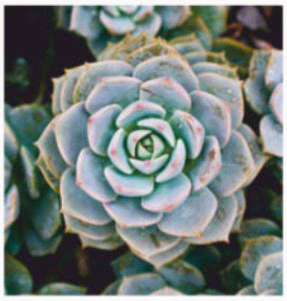
Location Sun or partial shade
Native to Africa
Why grow it? I grow this banana-like plant for its large, upright leaves tinted with deep red.
Need to know Tender, so protect in winter.

3 Honey bush (*Melianthus major*)



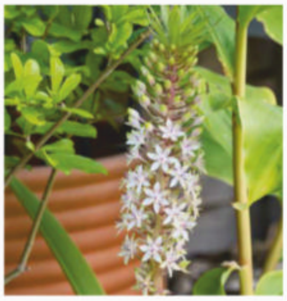
Location Full sun
Native to South Africa
Why grow it? This medium-sized evergreen sub-shrub has attractive foliage that smells like peanut butter!
Need to know Will die back in winter.

4 *Echeveria* 'Apus'



Location Sun or partial shade
Native to deserts of Mexico, Central and South America
Why grow it? I love echeverias, and the colouring of this one's foliage rosette is really striking.
Need to know Tender, so protect in winter.

5 Pineapple lily (*Eucomis comosa* 'Millie')



Location Sun or partial shade
Native to Southern Africa
Why grow it? First come the attractive pale-pink flower spikes, then the architectural seedheads.
Need to know Tender, so protect in winter.

Use canes to support tall stems so they don't flop

> “My ‘holiday pots’ let me try growing plants that remind me of those beautiful destinations”

of course. Also, the amount of fascinating people I meet through my work means I also end up being inspired by their world of growing, with each plant having a story behind it, a connection to a place I've visited or a person I've met. Using pots allows me to give their passion a go without really changing the main body of my garden, but creating little tropical spots along the way.

Moveable feasts

Growing in containers also means you can move plants around to find the perfect location. There will be distinct light and temperature differences even in a small space, helping you ensure that each plant receives its ideal conditions, whether it's full sun, part-shade or somewhere in between.

You can also move the pots around to see what looks best where, and experiment with planting combinations. I've placed a large group of mine in front of my garden office and in summer, when I'm working at home, I'll interact with them every day. They also provide a focal pull and sit well against the backdrop of the cladded office wall.

Although many of my more tropical holiday plants get moved into the greenhouse over winter, I do also include hardier plants that I keep outside all year, providing a framework for the container collection. Then, when my tenders are tucked up safe from the cold, I fill the gaps with hardy winter interest, such as sarcococcas, hellebores and snowdrops, or early-spring loveliness in the form of daffodils, tulips and crocuses.

All in all, holiday pots are a simple yet effective way to bring a world of beauty and joy to both your garden and your life. ☐

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; JASON INGRAM

Adam's tips: pots and plant care

Containers

Your choice of pot should be driven by the overall look of your garden, but I tend to choose mostly terracotta, in a mix of sizes, to create a consistent look. As terracotta is porous, it promotes air circulation around the roots and subsequent growth, but it also means the potting compost dries out faster in hot weather. Size-wise, the pot should be big enough to accommodate the plant's root system with some room to grow. Also make sure the pot has good drainage holes in the base – essential for half-hardy plants that hate sitting in cold wet compost.

Potting compost

Your compost choice will be dependent on the plant, but generally a free-draining mix is best. Try to match the plant's natural growing conditions. I usually combine peat-free compost and topsoil as a base, then I might add horticultural grit or sand if I want to open up that mix and improve the drainage.

Location

Choose a position that suits the light and temperature needs of each plant. For example, with a plant that likes partial shade, such as a begonia, place the pot somewhere that doesn't get midday sun. Also, get to know your garden's microclimates – south-facing walls, for example, will hold onto heat, while colder winds come from the east and north.

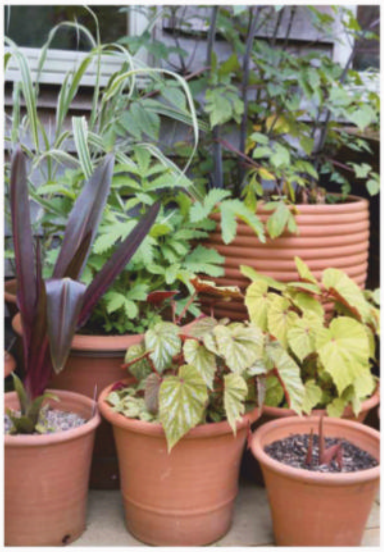
With plants that need winter protection, move the pots to a sheltered spot, such as a greenhouse or covered porch, before the first frost. You can also cover tender potted plants with horticultural fleece to help insulate them.

Supports

Keep taller plants and those with heavy flowers in a sheltered position – they may also need staking to stop them toppling over. I use a mix of bamboo canes, hazel sticks and steel plant supports, aiming to get these in place early in the year.

Watering and feeding

In warm weather, pots can dry out quickly, especially if they're in full sun, so soak the compost regularly, ensuring the water reaches the bottom of the pot. Get into the habit of pushing a finger into the compost to check if it needs watering. For plants that require feeding, choose a balanced liquid fertiliser and apply every two to three weeks to promote healthy growth and plenty of blooms.



Terracotta is attractive and porous, for good air and moisture circulation

Pots dry out quicker than borders, so water regularly and generously

BBC Gardeners' World Fair Autumn
■ GW Fair Autumn on 29-31 August
Get more tips and advice from **Adam Frost**
at Audley End House, Essex – book your tickets now

Make the most of summer

With our huge range of outdoor furniture online.

£100 OFF

CORNER LOUNGE SET
Palma
RRP £1,299.00

- Rattan lounge set perfect for relaxing and entertaining
- Luxurious corner sofa with matching stools, seats up to 9
- Durable, low maintenance and weather resistant
- Dining table has a tempered glass top
- Enjoy peace of mind with a 1 year warranty

Website price £699.00*
EXCLUSIVE £100 off
NOW JUST £599
Use code **GW25L1** at checkout

£100 OFF

CORNER LOUNGE SET
Stockholm
RRP £999.00

- Stylish rattan design
- 6 seater corner sofa & dining table
- Removable covers for washing

Website price £599.00*
EXCLUSIVE £100 off
NOW JUST
£499
When using code
GW25L1 at checkout

£100 OFF

RATTAN DINING SET
Bridgetown

ALSO AVAILABLE AS ROUND

- 6 seater, perfect for relaxed dining with friends & family
- Vinyl wood table top giving the set a rustic finish

Website price £699.00*
EXCLUSIVE £100 off
NOW JUST
£599
When using code
GW25L1 at checkout

Scan here to order now or visit **MINT-OUTDOOR.COM**
■ Wide range of garden furniture available ■ Standard delivery is 5-10 working days* ■ Delivery to majority of UK postcodes**

*See website for details. While stocks last. Prices and delivery correct at time of going to press. **See website for restrictions.

MINT OUTDOOR

The vibrant colours of the Diamond Falls waterfall are enhanced by the surrounding lush greenery

Garden globetrotting: *St Lucia*

With a verdant landscape containing dense rainforest, a waterfall that changes colour and more tropical plants than you could ever wish for, **Blake Roberts** was blown away by St Lucia's natural beauty... and its chocolate!

Blake Roberts, Digital Editor

I expected beaches, rum cocktails and a healthy dose of relaxation on the small Eastern Caribbean island of St Lucia – and yes, I found all of those things. But what I hadn't anticipated was the island's incredible botanical beauty.

From the plane window, the island unfurled below – a lush patchwork of emerald forests, hidden coves and the twin spires of the famous Pitons (two spectacular UNESCO-listed mountains that are St Lucia's most recognisable landmarks) rising steep and proud from the sea.

My first excursion was to the Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens, just a short ride from the charming town of Soufrière. The gardens are part of the estate gifted by King Louis XIV in the 1700s and feel wonderfully curated without being overly manicured. Paths wind through towering ferns, fiery heliconias, ginger lilies, bromeliads and giant bamboo, with banana leaves spreading overhead like umbrellas, and elephant's ears and caladiums jostling for space below.

Shafts of light pierce the canopy, revealing hidden blooms and butterflies, and I saw my first hummingbird – a flash of purple and green darting between hibiscus blooms, so fast it felt like a trick of the light. At the trail's end is the famous waterfall, streaked in yellows and oranges from mineral-rich water – a spectacular focal point with tumbling tradescantia covering the surrounding rocks.

I wanted to visit the Tet Paul Nature Trail after hearing about the postcard-worthy views of the Pitons. It's a short hiking trail (around 45 minutes) and is classed as an easy-to-moderate hike, which is less demanding than climbing the Pitons

PHOTOS: ALAMY/IMAGEBROKER.COM; GETTY/JAMINWELL; JASON INGRAM

The most photographed icons of St Lucia, the steep Pitons are a draw for hikers keen to explore their natural beauty up close

themselves. The trail offers more than scenery: it also gives a glimpse into the island's sustainable traditions, with plants used for food, medicine and ritual. Just as we reached the high point, we barely had time for photos before a curtain of rain swept across the landscape – a tropical deluge that soaked us through in seconds. It felt like a baptism into St Lucia's rainforest heart.

Nearby is the island's famous 'drive-in' volcano (I was relieved to learn it hadn't erupted since 1766), where steam vents hiss from cracks in the earth and the air is thick with sulphur. Just downhill are the mud baths, where locals and tourists slather themselves in grey clay before washing off in the naturally heated pools. It was messy, yet mindful and strangely meditative – not unlike a day spent pottering in the garden.

A different kind of immersion came at the Hotel Chocolat's Rabot Estate, where I joined a cacao farm tour. We got hands-on grafting young cacao trees, learned about mulching and companion planting, and tasted the slippery, fruity pulp from fresh pods, later producing our own chocolate bars from scratch. For someone who loves growing food and understanding where it comes from, it was both delicious and grounding.

On St Lucia, I was enchanted by how people live with nature rather than just beside it. I returned home with a renewed appreciation for how plants, soil, wildlife and people are all beautifully connected.

■ ESSENTIAL INFO

The best time to visit St Lucia is December to April – avoiding the wet season. I stayed at Windjammer Landing (***windjammer-landing.com***) and East Winds resort (***eastwinds.com***) during my trip. For more information about visiting St Lucia, head to ***stlucia.org***.

Inspired by St Lucia

St Lucia's tropical climate means that many of the plants found on the island need careful consideration when they are grown in the UK. By following our advice you can add a Caribbean vibe to your garden, with three plants that will not only survive but also thrive

Elephant's ears need heat and moist soil, and are best brought indoors in winter

ELEPHANT'S EAR (*Colocasia esculenta*)

These dramatic, heart-shaped leaves are a staple of tropical gardens in St Lucia. Mimic the conditions of the rainforest by growing in dappled shade in moist soil, ideally around the edge of a pond or water feature for an instant jungle atmosphere. If growing outside, treat the tubers like you would dahlias, by digging up in autumn and storing before replanting in early spring.

Take care when watering bougainvillea by allowing it to almost dry out between waterings

Banana plants rarely flower in the UK but their huge leaves add a tropical touch

BOUGAINVILLEA

Bougainvillea isn't native to the Caribbean but driving through the island's thriving fishing villages, it was hard to escape. Climbing up the front of colourful houses, its papery bracts come in a range of vibrant colours – reds, oranges, whites. In the UK, they are often grown as a house plant; pick a compact variety and grow in a bright spot where it'll get plenty of sunshine. Feed once a week in summer with a high-nitrogen feed.

BANANA (*Musa basjoo*)

Bananas are a familiar sight in St Lucia, grown on farms for their fruit as well as in gardens and nature trails for their architectural leaves. While most banana plants are too tender for UK gardens, *Musa basjoo* is a hardy variety that dies back in winter and then comes into growth again in spring. While hardy, it's worth giving it a thick layer of mulch for winter protection.

PHOTOS: ALAMY/JOHN RICHMOND; SARAH CUTTLE; JASON INGRAM

NEXT MONTH We visit Estonia to find out the treasures that lie beyond its bogs and heavily forested landscape

Gardeners' World offer

ESCAPE ON A NO-FLY HOLIDAY

Board the Eurostar, relax and relish the slower pace of travel as you unwind in the comfort of a train journey and visit Europe by rail on a no-fly break

FREE travel wallet

Lake Como

Northern Italy lakes & gardens

From £1,795pp* – 7 nights, 8 days. Departs 19 Oct 2025*

Travel to Northern Italy's lakeside paradise by Eurostar from London. Stay on beautiful Lake Orta. Visit charming Stresa on Lake Maggiore, known for its stunning villas and gardens, and Lake Como, with a trip to Villa Carlotta. You'll also cross the border into Switzerland twice and visit cosmopolitan Milan.

Your tour includes

- Return from London to Paris by Eurostar; return from Paris to Stresa by TGV
- Seven nights half-board at the four-star Hotel Giardinetto
- Three free days to relax or explore at your own pace
- Excursions to Lake Como and Lake Lugano
- A day trip to Milan
- An excursion around the shores of Lake Maggiore, including Stresa and Locarno
- Stunning rail travel through the Swiss Alps

**Also available 20 April 2026*

Timetable

- **DAY 1** Arrive in Lake Orta
- **DAY 2** Free day on Lake Orta
- **DAY 3** Lake Maggiore
- **DAY 4** Lake Como and Lake Lugano
- **DAY 5** Free day on Lake Orta
- **DAY 6** Milan
- **DAY 7** Free day on Lake Orta
- **DAY 8** Return home

Orta San Giulio on Lake Orta

Lake Thun

Swiss Alps & the Glacier Express

From £1,595pp* – 4 nights, 5 days. Departs 30 Sept 2025*

Travel by rail from London to Paris and on to Interlaken, in the heart of the Alps. From here, you'll see the beauty of the Swiss Alps by train, including a ride on the Glacier Express. Take boat trips on Lakes Lucerne and Thun, ride a train to the summit of Mount Rigi and explore the Swiss capital, Bern.

Your tour includes

- Return from London St Pancras to Switzerland by Eurostar and local rail services
- Four nights B&B at the Hotel Crystal, Interlaken
- One three-course dinner at a local restaurant in Interlaken
- All rail travel within Switzerland
- A journey on the Lucerne-Interlaken Express scenic train
- A boat trip on Lake Lucerne
- A rail ride to the summit of Mount Rigi
- A journey on the Glacier Express with three-course lunch on board
- Visit to Switzerland's capital city, Bern
- A cruise on Lake Thun
- Transfers between stations in Paris

**Also available 2 February 2026*

Timetable

- **DAY 1** Arrive in Interlaken
- **DAY 2** Lucern and Mount Rigi
- **DAY 3** Glacier Express
- **DAY 4** Bern and Lake Thun
- **DAY 5** Return home

The Glacier Express

Bern

TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO BOOK

gardenersworld.tripsmiths.com/italy
03330 603 591 quoting **GW**

gardenersworld.tripsmiths.com/glacier
03301 623 143 quoting **GW**

Terms & Conditions *From prices are per person, based on two people sharing a standard room, subject to availability. Price and itinerary correct at time of print but may be subject to change. Single supplement applies. Deposit 30%. Local charges such as tourist tax may apply. One travel wallet per booking. Offers are not valid in conjunction with any other offers or promotions. Travel insurance is not included and should be taken out at time of booking. Images used may not reflect your actual tour experience. Holidays may be sold through other selected brands. Tours are operated by and subject to the booking conditions of TS Travel Limited (ATOL bonded).

TRIPSMITHS

Elea Strang's love of plants and people is at the heart of her thriving not-for-profit nursery, Kevock Garden Plants

Community cultivation

Humaira Ikram goes behind the scenes at an innovative Scottish nursery to pick up expert growing tips and explore its inspirational focus on wellbeing and social inclusion

PHOTO: JASON INGRAM

New Light Mink
Leather
New Moss
Nubuck
Denim Navy
Leather
3 FITS
HALF SIZES
LEATHER

HOTTER®

A *classic* sandal
for *carefree* days

SAVE
£20
WAS £69

LAKE

The perfect breathable flat for summer, with a leather covered OrthoLite® foam insole for underfoot cushioning.

NOW £49

ORDER TODAY AND SAVE £20 with code **HPLK20H**

Call 01695 79 79 79 Mon - Sun (24hrs) or visit hotter.com

This offer entitles the customer to purchase selected colours of Lake at £49, a saving of £20 off RRP with code HPLK20H, subject to availability. Offer valid until 15th September 2025. For full T&C's, visit hotter.com/terms

---

EMBRACE INDOOR/ OUTDOOR LIVING

Precision Engineering meets Expert Craftsmanship

An Eden Veranda is the epitome of indoor/outdoor living and will transform your home and lifestyle. Every Eden product is a bespoke masterpiece of modern design and engineering excellence. From initial design to final installation Eden set the standard for glass rooms and verandas in the UK.

- **Bespoke design solutions**
- **Exceptional engineering and premium materials**
- **Optional Heating & Lighting available**
- **Comprehensive 10 year warranty**

Scan the QR code, call now on
0800 107 2727
or visit **edenverandas.co.uk**

*Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

SUMMER SALE **UP TO 25% OFF***
WHEN YOU QUOTE CODE GW1707

FINANCE OPTIONS AVAILABLE*

eden
VERANDAS

While it's common to hear talk about the social and health benefits of gardening, it can be hard to put that into practice, especially combining it with high horticultural standards. But that is exactly what Elea Strang has done at Kevock Garden Plants in Midlothian, Scotland.

Elea was always interested in plants and the outdoor world. In fact she looked for a botany degree course to apply for as a youngster, but ended up studying geography. Following that, life led her on a completely different course, into social work. After working in London she joined an organisation based in Edinburgh, where she still lives, assisting people with learning disabilities to set up small businesses together. While she loved her work, the pull of plants was stronger, so she applied for a job working at a local nursery, which was Kevock Garden Plants.

Come 2016, the current owners were looking for a new owner so they could retire, and Elea decided to combine her passions by taking over the nursery along with her husband to run it as a not-for-profit business. This means the nursery works for the good of the local community, generating income to achieve its goals but reinvesting surplus back into the organisation.

The nursery is nestled in the bottom of a valley and on the flood plain of the river North Esk. As a result, the site is sheltered, surrounded by trees, the rainfall is relatively low and the soil is alluvial, sandy, neutral and free draining. These are perfect conditions for specialist plants and it was

Staff and volunteers form a friendly, supportive team that achieves high standards

Expert growing tips: meconopsis

Kevock is known for growing meconopsis, or Himalayan blue poppies. These striking summer flowers are famed not just for their amazing colours but also for being rather tricky to grow. So what are Kevock's secrets to success?

- **Plant them in partial, preferably dappled shade** in a cool, humid environment. Avoid windy locations.
- **Try planting in a generous container** if you're not sure which garden position will be best, so you can move the pot until you find the location where they thrive.
- **Meconopsis needs humus-rich soil** or compost. In containers, use potting compost containing plenty of organic matter. Also apply a bark mulch, whether growing in pots or the ground, to mimic a woodland floor.
- **They also like soil that is moist** but free draining, so that water doesn't sit around their roots.
- **Water pots daily** – or even twice daily in spring and summer.
- **Feed regularly** throughout spring and summer with a balanced liquid fertiliser as part of your watering regime.
- **You can grow new plants** from seed sown in late summer, autumn or spring. You can also divide established clumps – Kevock does this in August.
- **Pests and diseases** tend not to trouble meconopsis.

240393 Aquilegia
canadensis
The nursery makes its own peat-free potting mixes, adapted to different plants' needs

PHOTOS: JASON INGRAM

Hillside
Animal Sanctuary

Foot Trimming Appeal

Above, you can see some of our horses who have just had their feet trimmed, heading back to their field. With over 2500 rescued horses, donkeys and ponies, that's in excess of 10,000 hooves to trim on average 4 times every year!!

Caring for the horses' feet is so vitally important that we have six different farriers responsible for keeping them all in trim. There's an expression 'No hoof, No horse' and this is very true. Regular attention to their hooves helps prevent lameness, keeping the animals comfortable and pain-free.

Although most of our horses require a basic trim, some require remedial shoeing to correct hoof defects thus allowing them to live a happy, healthy life.

If you would like to help with this...

All donations, however small, will be SO gratefully received

Donation/Order Helpline
01603 736200
9am-9pm 7 Days

Farriery Costs

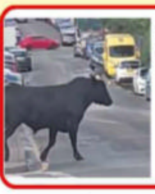
£20 for a Complete Trim
(That's £5 a Hoof)
£100 for Remedial Shoeing

You may donate via this QR Code

Hillside Animal Sanctuary was founded in 1995 to help and campaign for animals in need, particularly those suffering every day in the intensive factory farming industry.

Patron: Martin Shaw

We are home to 2500 rescued horses, ponies and donkeys, 750 cows, 300 pigs, 850 sheep and goats, and lots of other animals including dogs and deer...



... also now home to the Birmingham Bull

Please help us to feed and care for our many rescued animals by making a donation TODAY or buying cards or gifts at...

www.hillside.org.uk

Hillside Writing/ Notepad Set
Hillside Notepaper, Notepad, Pen and 10 envelopes
£5

'Winter Magic'
20 cards
2 designs
5" square
£10

Hillside Christmas Cards

Prices Inc. P&P

Please send me:	Price	No of Items	£	p
Hillside Notepad & Pen Set	£5			
20 'Winter Magic' Christmas Cards	£10			
Pack 10 assorted Sanctuary Scene Notecards 6"X4"	£6			
A donation of just £5 will help provide much-needed hay for our rescued animals who rely entirely on the public's support.	**Hay Bale £5 each**			
Gift Total				
Farrier/General Donation				
Total				

Reg. Co. No. 03027338

Please make cheque/PO payable to Hillside Animal Sanctuary Ltd
or debit my Visa/MasterCard No.

Expiry Date......../........ CVV..........

Name..

Address...

....

..............................Postcode..

Please send me a FREE NEWSLETTER ☐
with details of Hillside's Work, Gifts & Open Days

Please return to: Hillside Animal Sanctuary
Hall Lane, Frettenham, Norwich NR12 7RW

Orders sent by return post

Elea waters carefully, directing the spray where needed to maintain healthy plants

this that first attracted Kevock's original owners, Stella and David Rankin.

Specialising in rock garden plants, the team at Kevock have made a name for themselves selling unusual alpines and delectable Himalayan blue poppies, but their plant range is wide, including trees, shrubs, woodland perennials and bulbs. The nursery regularly wins awards when exhibiting at shows, including a gold medal at RHS Chelsea this year. Despite their prowess at Chelsea though, Elea says their favourite is the Scone Palace Garden Fair, near Perth, with its fancy peacocks!

To create the perfect growing media, the team have been working on several peat-free mixes for all their specialist plant needs. Where appropriate they are also moving towards biocontrols and using fewer chemicals.

Growing together

The nursery sells plants online but is not open to walk-in visitors, so we are lucky to visit the site to meet Elea and some of her team. Workers in the nursery currently number 17, with 10 staff and seven volunteers. The volunteers are usually referred here by local community voluntary organisations. Elea is also hoping to offer up the nursery as a place for NHS social prescribing by local GPs.

Kevock is special. Elea Strang has built a team who care about their plants but also about each other. In addition to providing green therapy, building confidence and teaching new skills, they're also innovating, thriving and striding forwards, with facilities like a new mist room for rooting cuttings more efficiently and offering new varieties and species of plants.

Kevock has found a model for the future, as Elea and her team have created a business that is unique, thriving and socially aware – an idea worth replicating across the country.

The nursery grows many plants from seed, collecting it once ripe into paper bags

Looking after sun-loving alpines

Kevock grows a wide range of plants suitable for rock gardens, familiarly known as alpines. These can also be grown in containers and tend to be compact, decorative, hardy and tough, so they're great for a small garden, patio or balcony. Most alpines like high light levels and dislike damp soil, and Kevock's key tips will help them thrive:

- Use a free-draining compost – fill containers with a 50:50 mix of potting compost and grit. If planting in the ground, adding grit will improve drainage. Alpines perish if left sitting in wet conditions.

- Plant slightly proud of the ground and mulch with a grit collar to help keep the foliage off damp compost or soil.

- Avoid feeding alpines planted in the ground. Those in containers, such as troughs, can be fed once a year. Feeding can promote lush growth, which makes plants vulnerable to inclement weather.

- Try growing from seed. Kevock sows most of its alpines in winter, so seedlings are ready to prick out by late spring or early summer. Collect seeds in summer or autumn, then remove spent seedheads.

PHOTOS: JASON INGRAM

Kevock's specialities

TOP 3 MECONOPSIS

Propagation methods vary for Himalayan poppies depending on their horticultural 'group', so research first if you're buying with the intention of bulking them up.

① **'Lingholm'**
Kevock recommends this as the easiest variety for novice meconopsis growers. Strong and vigorous, it has RHS AGM status. It is a fertile hybrid (in the Fertile Blue Group), so can be propagated from seed.
Height x Spread 75cm x 50cm
Flowers May-Jul

② **'Barney's Blue'**
The cup-shaped flowers open purple-pink, gradually turning upwards and changing to sky blue, so clumps gain a two-tone effect. It's in the George Sherriff Group, meaning it is propagated from rhizomes and offsets.
H x S 1m x 60cm **F** May-Jul

③ **'Jimmy Bayne'**
Rich blue flowers, sometimes with a purplish cast, and overlapping petals that form a bowl. The foliage has brown bristles. Propagate like 'Barney's Blue' (above).
H x S 1m x 40cm **F** Jun

TOP 3 SUN-LOVING ALPINES

These compact, collectable plants need an open, sunny spot to thrive.

① ***Erigeron* 'Four Winds'**
A spreading perennial daisy producing masses of summer flowers from a grey-green mat of foliage. Will grow in a range of free-draining soils, from chalk to acidic loam, and looks great in a seaside location. **H x S** 25cm x 50cm **F** Jul-Aug

② **Edelweiss (*Leontopodium wilsonii*)**
Star-like flowerheads consisting of tiny blooms surrounded by felted bracts make this alpine highly sought after. This species is more robust than some of the others.
H x S 20cm x 20cm **F** Jul-Aug

③ ***Acaena inermis* 'Purpurea'**
Intriguing mats of purplish foliage that turn red when exposed to bright sun. The pompom flowers are a summer bonus and develop into attractive fruits. Great in gravel gardens, as well as rock gardens.
H x S 15cm x 30cm **F** Jun-Jul

■ **Kevock Garden Plants**
kevockgarden.co.uk

PHOTOS: TORIE CHUGG; RAY COX; JASON INGRAM

NEXT MONTH Our nurseries series takes a break in September but returns in our October issue

Ready for outdoor adventures and unexpected downpours of tea

Cotton
TRADERS

BISCUIT
LEAF
NAVY
WATER RESISTANT
UP TO 48" WAIST
4 LENGTHS

HALF PRICE
from £23

ACTION TROUSERS

~~£48~~ £24 **HALF PRICE**

- Easy-care and quick drying fabric
- Side elasticated waist
- Multiple pockets for added security

Machine Washable
Water Resistant Finish
65% Polyester 35% Cotton
32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48
Biscuit Leaf Navy

27" (68.5cm) inside leg	**AC16659**
29" (74cm) inside leg	**AC16660**
31" (79cm) inside leg	**AC16661**
33" (84cm) inside leg	**AC16662**

"I'm most impressed by the quality and fit!"
Online review

TRAVEL SHOES

~~£46~~ £23 **HALF PRICE**

- Padded ankle collar and tongue for support
- Sturdy soles for everyday wear

Upper Other/Textile
Lining/Sock Textile
Sole Other
7 8 9 10 11 12 E Fit
Sand

AQ11590

Plus only £3.99 standard delivery

Fast and reliable UK delivery service with easy returns

order today at **cottontraders.com**
0844 844 1111

Enter product code, add to your basket and then add your promotional code to apply your savings online.
14 day money back guarantee if not completely satisfied.

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

Post to: **Cotton Traders, Neptune House, Pacific Court, Pacific Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5BJ**

PRODUCT CODE	SIZE	1ST COLOUR CHOICE	2ND COLOUR CHOICE	QTY	TOTAL
				UK STANDARD DELIVERY	£3.99
				TOTAL	

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

PLEASE USE THIS PROMOTIONAL CODE TO CLAIM YOUR OFFER
H381

Card Number

Expiry Date

Security Code*

Cheque payable to: **Cotton Traders Limited**

Payment taken at point of order. We aim to deliver within 3 working days from dispatch, stock subject to availability. We comply with Consumer Contract Regulations; you have the right to cancel your order no later than 14 days after the day on which you receive your goods. Inform us of your wish to cancel in writing, by letter or email. Returns are not free, full details are on your delivery note. Return goods within 28 days of cancellation. Calls to 0844 numbers will cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. £3.99 UK standard delivery. International delivery, see website for prices. Offer applies to purchases in GBP only. Exception is Ireland orders which will be charged in EUR at the set conversion rate. Prices quoted are correct at time of production but can vary. One promotion per order. **Marketing and Promotions:** We want to make sure you don't miss out on our great products and offers, so we will keep you informed by post. If you do not want to hear from us, please let us know. I do not want to be contacted by: Post ☐. We take your privacy seriously. For details of our privacy policy and full terms and conditions visit cottontraders.com. *Last 3 digits on back of card. This is mandatory to process your order. Offer ends 31.12.2025

Sarah's easy projects mean that even people without a garden can create and enjoy their own water feature

A way with water

Combine the beauty of indoor plants with the calming effects of water, with **Sarah-Gerrard Jones'** aquatic house-plant projects

PHOTOS NEIL HEPWORTH

I was amazed to learn that, on average, we spend 90 per cent of our lives indoors, which makes it crucial that our homes are healthy environments that support our wellbeing. A home can be so much more than walls and a roof; it can also be a place to feel inspired, restorative and peaceful.

There are few settings better at making us feel calm than being near water. When we go on holiday, many of us are drawn to staying beside the sea because we associate water with relaxation.

Fortunately, you don't need to live beside the sea or even have a garden to experience the soothing effects of water at home. With a bit of creativity, you can have a water feature indoors that will help turn your home into a sanctuary of calm.

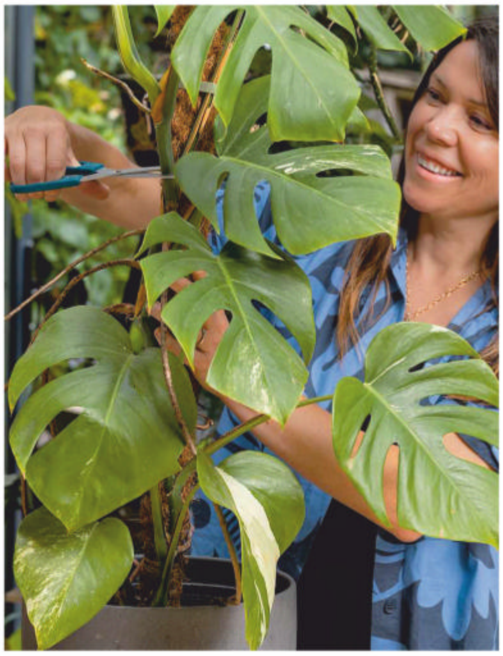
Bubbling vase

Propagating cuttings (such as a Swiss cheese plant) in water is a great way to grow more plants for free, and adding an air stone will introduce the sound of a meandering stream or bubbling spring into your home. An air stone is typically used in an aquarium to help oxygenate the water, but adding it to a jar or vase will increase the speed at which your cuttings root while creating a mesmerising and relaxing water feature. Once the cutting shows roots, pot it on to complete the propagating cycle.

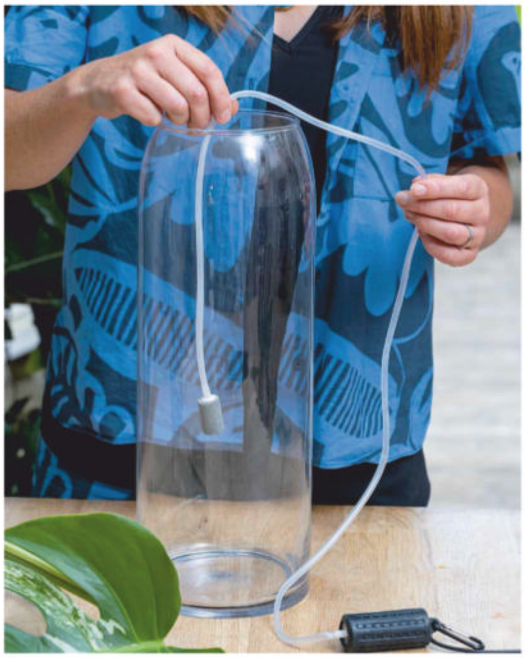
You'll need

- **Large vase** x 1
- **Air stone** x 1
- **Cuttings** from a house plant
- **Small pebbles**
- **Gravel**

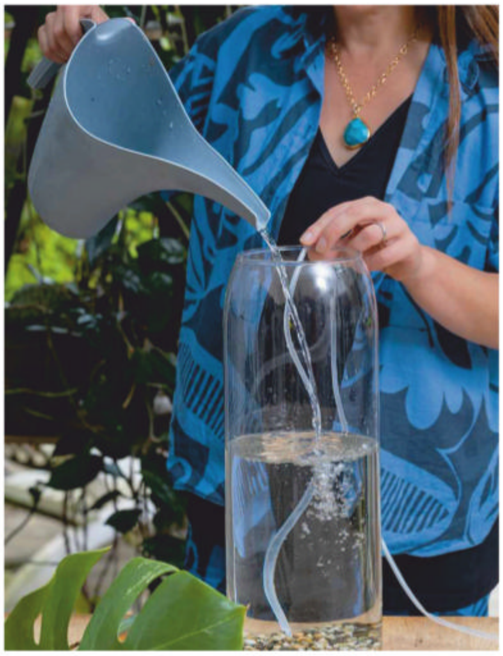
How to make your bubbling vase



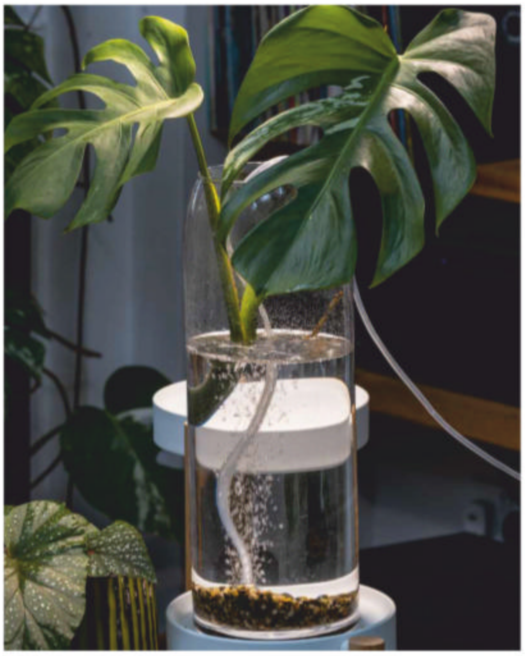
1 **Cut** the stem above a node. Leave the cutting for 24 hours before putting it in water so the end hardens, protecting the plant from pathogens.



2 **Put** the air stone in the vase. Add pebbles and aquarium gravel to the bottom to help disguise the air stone and keep the vase stable.



3 **Fill** the vase with rainwater, taking care not to splash the sides of the vase, and put the cutting in so the node on the stem is submerged.



4 **Place** the vase away from direct sunlight but not too far from a window. Plug in the air stone and watch it bubble away.

TOP TIP

It's important to keep the water and vase clean. If you notice the water getting dirty or algae starting to grow, empty the vase, clean the inside of the glass and refill it again. Repeat as necessary.

Discover more house-plant advice from Sarah in her new book *The Philosophy of Houseplants* (British Library Publishing, £10.99)

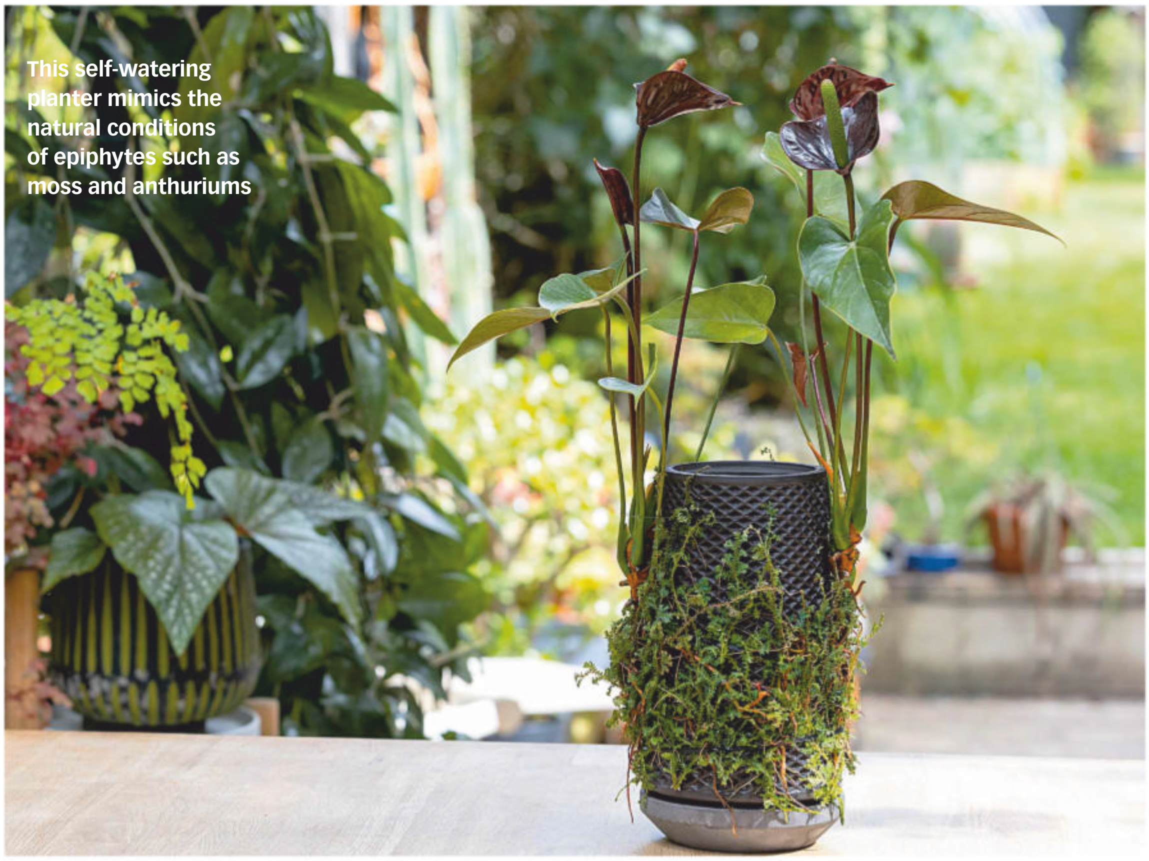
THE PHILOSOPHY OF
HOUSEPLANTS
SARAH GERRARD-JONES
BRITISH LIBRARY

Self-watering planter

Self-watering planters such as the Tevaplanter or Terra base are porous containers that allow water to slowly seep through the material, providing the plants with the moisture they need to grow. There can be a bit of trial and error in transitioning plants to this method, but it's worth persevering as, when they acclimatise, they look spectacular. There are two options for where to keep the planter: either inside a closed terrarium, which makes it a suitable environment for mosses and carnivorous plants, or on a windowsill. For this windowsill project, I used *Selaginella uncinata* and *Anthurium andraeanum* 'Black Love'.

You'll need

- **Tevaplanter** x 1 (available from *tevaplanter.com*)
- ***Anthurium andraeanum*** x 1
- ***Selaginella uncinata*** x 1
- **Cotton thread**

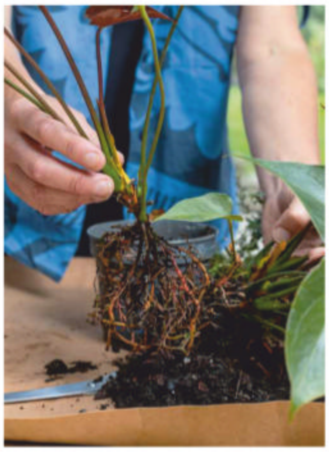


This self-watering planter mimics the natural conditions of epiphytes such as moss and anthuriums

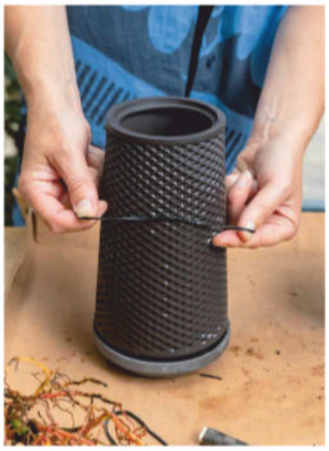
TOP TIP

Use rainwater, if possible, as tap water can leave white mineral deposits on the surface, which will detract from the overall appearance. Put the planter on a saucer to protect the windowsill from getting damp.

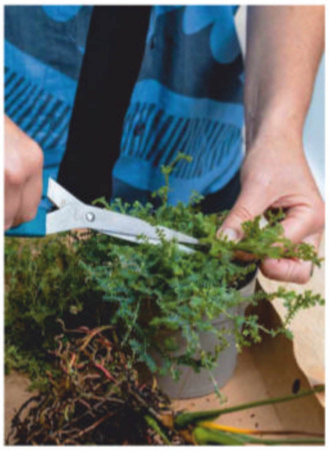
How to make your self-watering planter feature



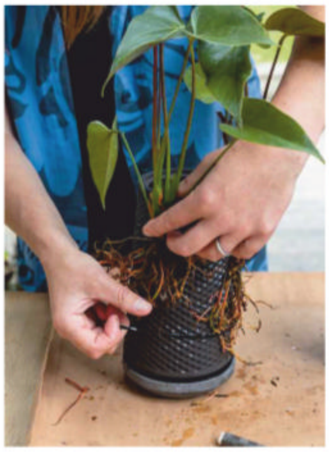
1 **Remove** the anthurium from its pot and rinse the soil from the roots. There may be more than one plant in the pot.



2 **Space** out four rubber bands over the planter. These will keep the plants in contact with the outer surface.



3 **Take** selaginella cuttings and attach them to the planter with the bands. Use thread to secure them in place.



4 **Attach** the anthurium roots to the planter using the rubber bands and thread. Fill the planter with rainwater.

Pennywort bowl

Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) is the perfect plant for someone who overwaters. Pennywort, not to be confused with the highly invasive *H. ranunculoides*, is a marsh-dwelling, bog-loving, semi-aquatic plant that loves as much water as you can give it. Get creative with the container – as long as it doesn't have holes in the bottom, you can pretty much use anything to make an attractive, low-maintenance, indoor pond. You can buy pennywort in aquatic shops or online.

You'll need

- **Potting compost**
- **Pennywort plants**
- **Bowl-shaped container** x 1
- **Horticultural grit**

Pennywort makes an unusual yet simple feature with its round, coin-like leaves

TOP TIP

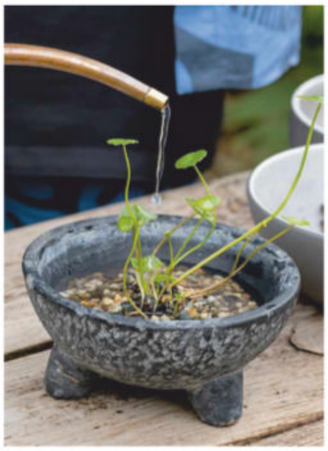
Pennywort needs bright light to thrive – a windowsill is best. Never let the bowl dry out. When the plant becomes a bit unruly, cut it back and eat the leaves – they're delicious in a salad.

How to make your pennywort bowl

1 **Add** a 2cm-deep layer of potting compost to the bottom of your container and water it so it is just damp.

2 **Plant** the pennywort into the compost. Firm in, so that the top of the rootball is level with the soil surface.

3 **Add** a layer of washed horticultural grit or pea gravel on top. This will keep the soil in place and the plant secure.



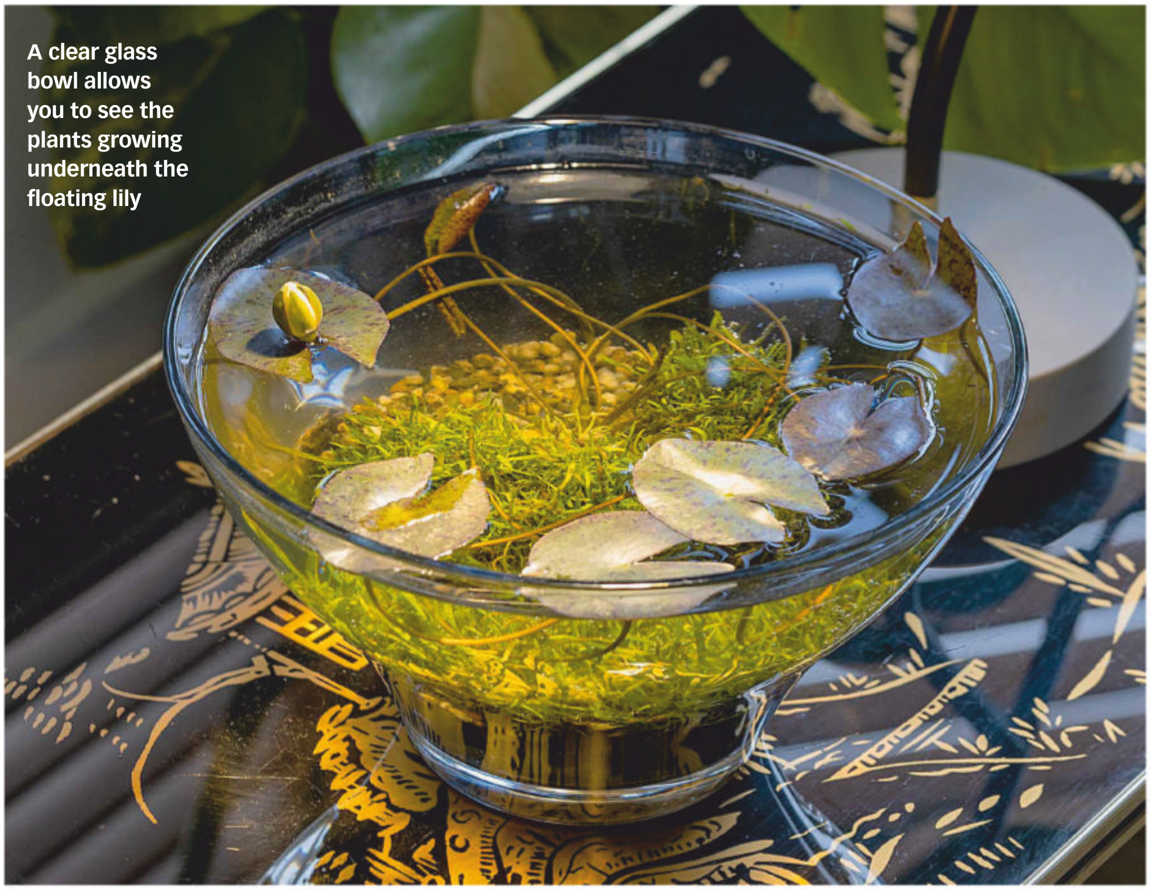
4 **Slowly** fill the bowl with water to the desired level. Place in a spot that gets bright, indirect light. Keep topped up.

Waterlily pond

Could there be anything more peaceful than watching a tiny waterlily floating in a clear bowl-shaped container? I opted for a glass bowl, but you can use any type as long as it is deep and wide enough to accommodate the lily – at least 18cm deep and over 35cm wide. This won't work with a standard lily, as they are too big. Instead, choose a miniature variety such as *Nymphaea* 'Pygmaea Helvola'. I also added *Lilaeopsis brasiliensis* to help oxygenate the water.

You'll need

- ***Nymphaea*** **'Pygmaea Helvola'** x 1
- ***Lilaeopsis brasiliensis*** x 1
- **Aquarium soil**
- **Pea gravel**

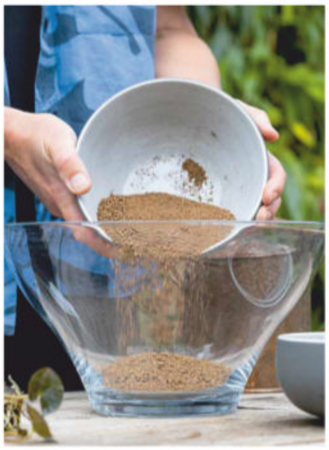


A clear glass bowl allows you to see the plants growing underneath the floating lily

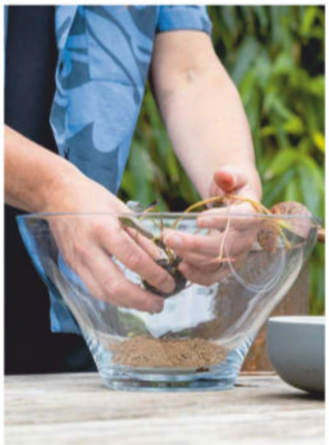
TOP TIP

Water lilies need direct sunlight to thrive. I sit the bowl under a grow light that is on for approx. 12 hours a day. The bowl may get a bit of algae growth, so change the water and clean the bowl regularly.

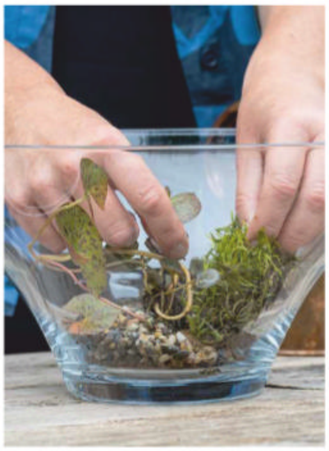
How to make your waterlily pond



1 **Add** a 2cm-deep layer of aquarium soil into the bowl – that should be deep enough for the plant roots.

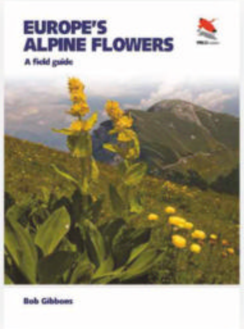


2 **Remove** the water lily carefully from its container and gently rinse off all the mud. Place it in the bowl.



3 **Add** the lilaeopsis on top of the aquarium soil and cover the rest of the soil surface with the pea gravel.

4 **Slowly** fill the bowl with water without disturbing the soil. It may look a bit murky, but should settle over time.


EUROPE'S ALPINE FLOWERS
A field guide
Bob Gibbons

An authoritative photographic guide to Europe's spectacular Alpine flora

BRITAIN'S TREES
A guide to the trees of Great Britain and Ireland
Jon Stokes
the tree council

A comprehensive photographic identification guide to all of the native trees and shrubs of Great Britain and Ireland and many of the common non-native species

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

Search for garden inspiration

www.stonewarehouse.co.uk

Decorative Aggregates and Garden Supplies

- Leading online decorative aggregate retailer.
- Next working day delivery available.
- Stunning design ideas to inspire your garden space, big or small.
- Download our guides for tips and advice.
- Gravel Calculator - check how much you'll need.
- Gravel / Slate / Pebbles Cobbles / Rockery / Boulders Paving / Edging / Monoliths Accessories / Membranes

Special discount for readers visit stonewarehouse.co.uk/gwaug

stonewarehouse.co.uk
Trustpilot
STONE WAREHOUSE .CO.UK
Gravel & Chippings
Slate & Paddlestones
Polar Ice® Gravel 20mm
Your postcode
Submit

STONE WAREHOUSE .CO.UK
DECORATIVE AGGREGATES & GARDEN SUPPLIES

01629 636212
sales@stonewarehouse.co.uk

Build your ideal garden
Free Design | Easy to Build | Long-Lasting

Build beautiful raised beds, raised ponds, retaining walls, garden furniture and much more with WoodBlocX.

Easy to build with no power tools or expertise required. Durable and made to last using sustainably-sourced timber.

Try our Free Design Service

Contact our team of designers today to discuss your garden plans.

★★★★★

"Brilliant design concept, very easy to assemble - and great fun too!"

Join thousands of happy customers who have transformed their gardens using WoodBlocX.

WOOD BlocX

Find the perfect solution for your garden at woodblocx.co.uk or by calling 0800 389 1420.

Every day this month brings bountiful produce for Sara's table, including beetroot, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes and nasturtium flowers

Growing THE GOOD LIFE

As a productive growing season nears its end, **Sara Ward** is picking, eating and storing her crops, while making sure her bees are happy too

PHOTOS JASON INGRAM

Many have asked over the years whether the long school summer holidays were initially planned to coincide with farming tasks and harvest time. It's certainly handy to be around for preserving the bounty and there's always tasks for the wider family to help with, both in the home garden and the allotment. However, going away during August requires a bit of planning, especially when growing our own. Plants, particularly those in pots, still need regular watering and when crops are ready, we must be there to gather them in before the squirrels nab them.

Several years ago, I was delighted to arrive home after a week in France to discover a huge crop of ripe figs gently dripping nectar and perfect for eating straightaway – just one week later and they would have been ruined. Yet last year our return from holiday revealed that every single one of our Italian flat peaches had vanished. Something small with a bushy tail had already discovered that they'd reached their delicious peak.

> *"Going away in August requires planning, especially when we grow our own"*

For the sweetest flavour, pick sloes when they are plump and a dark purple

Check plants in containers daily to see if they need watering

> “At the allotment, I arrange swaps with other plot holders, and we often help each other out as long as we aren’t away at the same time”

There are many ways to keep your plants watered while you are away on holiday, but regardless of who is doing what, I find it’s worth moving all the pots close together, so none are left out of sight and potentially neglected.

As we have cats and chickens that need to be fed each day, we sometimes ask friends and neighbours to help with a bit of watering as well. Down at the allotment, I arrange swaps with other plot holders, and we help each other out as long as we aren’t away at the same time. Back at home, a water sprinkler set with a timer is a guarantee that everything in its reach will get a daily dousing, but nothing beats saved rainwater to use for watering. We have water butts around the garden, which means we don’t have to carry filled watering cans too far, and on the allotment we collect rainwater in a big tank.

Plants need water at their roots, not on their leaves, so a soaker hose system, again on a timer, is a great way to get the water to exactly where it’s needed. If you set your system to turn on either early morning or late evening, the water is less likely to evaporate in the heat of the sun.

Honey etiquette

By now, we should be over the honeybee swarm season. Each colony reads the seasons by length of day and knows that as the evenings start to draw in it’s not wise to plan any major changes. A new queen in one hive may not be able to find male bees for mating from other hives this late in the year, so it’s ‘all systems go’ for battening down the hatches and making plans for winter.

A honeybee colony can often store more honey than it needs and, as a responsible beekeeper, I have to make sure that when I harvest the honey I leave enough for them. I never take honey from the brood box, where the queen bee lays eggs and the next generation is reared, I only take the excess, which is stored on top of the hive in ‘super boxes’. The super frames are much shallower than brood frames and each can hold up to 1.5kg of honey. With 12 frames in a box, that’s really heavy.

BELOW Honey cells that have been capped with wax by bees are ready to be extracted

When we extract honey from the beehives on a hot summer’s day, we have to ensure that all the windows and doors are firmly shut throughout the house, as it only takes one little bee getting a whiff of the honey that could send an army of her sisters to try to take it back!

Berry useful

Over the years, to help with security at the allotment, blackthorn bushes have proven to be a good deterrent for unwanted visitors as their thorny branches makes climbing over a fence much less desirable. With a beautiful blossom in early spring that provides nectar for the bees, and dark sloe berries at the end of summer, it’s a great shrub that’s both practical and rewarding.

My favourite way to use sloes is to make a fruit liqueur. Simply wash the berries, freeze overnight to weaken the skins (this helps draw out the juices) then pop them in a large jar, cover with sugar and top up with the spirit of your choice. Keep the jar covered and shake regularly over the coming months, and you’ll have a lovely festive tipple to enjoy throughout winter.

AUGUST Jobs

✔ **Harvest** everything that's ready and plan how to preserve the crops you won't eat straightaway. Beetroot can be pickled, chillies dry perfectly and sliced runner beans can be frozen.
✔ **Keep** an eye on your tomatoes. Tops and leaves can be cut off the plants to divert nutrients and sunlight to existing fruit. As heavy rain can cause them to split, cut trusses that are nearly ready so you can take fruits indoors to ripen.
✔ **Lift** spring onions and carrots as soon as they are the size you want
✔ **Cut** rosemary as you need it or dry bunches for future use.
✔ **Gather** windfall apples to reduce rotting fruit and wasps. If they are damaged, cut out what you don't want and compost them, and eat or cook all that is good.
✔ **Cooking** apples are really easy to prepare for the freezer with a spiralizer that peels cores and slices in one go.
✔ **Pick** edible flowers. They make a fine delicacy, yet are so easy to grow. Fennel flowers add flavour and decoration, while nasturtium blooms hold a sweet nectar surprise at their base, which is a delicious contrast to the peppery leaves.

ABOVE Use tools like spiralizers to make quick work of coring and peeling apples **LEFT** Pick nasturium flowers when they are open and fresh, before they start to wilt

✔ **Keep** up with weeding, especially in between brassicas, which don't want competition for precious water resources, particularly this month.
✔ **Cut** out damaged grapes from individual bunches to help prevent rot spreading, while reducing leaves ensures good airflow and helps let in sunlight to ripen the fruit.
✔ **Remove** any veg that are past their best and add to the compost bin.

With a mildly sweet flavour and fresh, crunchy texture, kohlrabi is delicious, raw or cooked

Apple & kohlrabi slaw

I remember my first kohlrabi – it looked like an extra-large radish with sprouting features akin to a cartoon character. However, snap off the leaves, peel off the skin and you have a peppery, crunchy vegetable that is perfect for salads and for making this delicious slaw.

This is also lovely served with barbecues or as a side dish for savoury tarts and pies. Store any leftovers, covered, in the fridge and eat within three days. I especially enjoy this recipe as we have apples growing at home, with different varieties available from August through to October, and a couple of rows of kohlrabi that are harvested as and when each individual plant is large enough. So, this is a real plot-to-plate dish. As with many other vegetables, kohlrabi comes in a range of colours. The purple varieties are stunning, although they taste the same as the white and pale-green ones. I enjoy planting up a veg bed that looks as beautiful as it will taste.

Kohlrabi is a member of the brassica family, so the leaves that are removed for this slaw can be steamed or stir-fried for a different dish.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp natural yoghurt
- 2 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 1 large kohlrabi
- 1 large eating apple (or 2 medium-sized apples)

METHOD

1 In a large bowl, stir the yoghurt, mayonnaise and mustard to combine well, then set aside.

2 Removing stalks and leaves from the kohlrabi, and peel the skin. Cut it into matchstick-size pieces.

3 Peel the apple, remove the core and cut it into matchstick-sized pieces.

4 Sprinkle the prepared kohlrabi and apple over the yoghurt mixture and stir through with a large spoon. Season to taste.

5 Transfer to a serving bowl and keep it chilled until you are ready to serve.

Gardeners' World offer

Be inspired and grow your own today!

Discover a fantastic range of Grow Your Own offers at **GardenersWorld.com/gyo-offers**. Whether you've got a windowsill or a garden, we've got the perfect products and tools to help you kick things off. So, start your growing journey today!

NEXT MONTH Sara will be saving seeds, harvesting grapes and protecting her winter squash

Elasticated waist: for when you're full of life... and snacks

Cotton TRADERS

FAWN
FERN GREEN
GRAPHITE
KHAKI BROWN
FRENCH NAVY

HALF PRICE

now £18

UP TO **52"** WAIST

4 LENGTHS

ELASTICATED WAIST TROUSERS

~~£36~~ £18 HALF PRICE

In pure cotton featuring an elasticated waist, zip and button-fastening fly, belt loops and back button-fastening pocket.

Machine Washable 100% Cotton
Fawn Fern Green Graphite
Khaki Brown French Navy

27" (68.5cm) inside leg **AC10773**
Sizes 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52

29" (74cm) inside leg **AC10038**
Sizes 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52

31" (79cm) inside leg **AC10039**
Sizes 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52

33" (84cm) inside leg **AC10040**
Sizes 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48

Plus only £3.99 standard delivery

"Extremely comfortable and well cut trousers in a nice range of colours. I ordered two pairs first, then ordered more." – **Online review**

- Softly peached cotton
- Smart-casual pleat front
- Side elastication for added comfort
- Zip fly and button fastening to waist
- 4 leg lengths for the perfect fit
- Up to 52" waist

Fast and reliable UK delivery service with easy returns

order today at **cottontraders.com**

0844 844 1111

Enter product code, add to your basket and then add your promotional code to apply your savings online. 14 day money back guarantee if not completely satisfied.

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

Post to: **Cotton Traders, Neptune House, Pacific Court, Pacific Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5BJ**

PRODUCT CODE	SIZE	1ST COLOUR CHOICE	2ND COLOUR CHOICE	QTY	TOTAL
				UK STANDARD DELIVERY	£3.99
				TOTAL	

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

PLEASE USE THIS PROMOTIONAL CODE TO CLAIM YOUR OFFER **P380**

Card Number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry Date ☐☐☐☐

Security Code* ☐☐☐

Cheque payable to: **Cotton Traders Limited**

Payment taken at point of order. We aim to deliver within 3 working days from dispatch, stock subject to availability. We comply with Consumer Contract Regulations; you have the right to cancel your order no later than 14 days after the day on which you receive your goods. Inform us of your wish to cancel in writing, by letter or email. Returns are not free, full details are on your delivery note. Return goods within 28 days of cancellation. Calls to 0844 numbers will cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. £3.99 UK standard delivery. International delivery, see website for prices. Offer applies to purchases in GBP only. Exception is Ireland orders which will be charged in EUR at the set conversion rate. Prices quoted are correct at time of production but can vary. One promotion per order. **Marketing and Promotions:** We want to make sure you don't miss out on our great products and offers, so we will keep you informed by post. If you do not want to hear from us, please let us know. I do not want to be contacted by: Post ☐. We take your privacy seriously. For details of our privacy policy and full terms and conditions visit cottontraders.com. *Last 3 digits on back of card. This is mandatory to process your order. Offer ends 31.12.2025

PAPER REVOLUTION

79% of paper and 83% of paper-based packaging is recycled into new products; one of the highest recycling rates of any material in Europe!

Sources: Cepi Key Statistics, 2023 and Eurostat, 2022
Europe: EU27 + Norway, Switzerland and the UK.

Discover the story of paper
www.lovepaper.org
Scan for paper facts, activities, blogs and much more!

LOVE PAPER®

August
Growing guide

You can sow a wide range of crops this month for harvests into autumn and winter

Sow indoors 🟪 **Plant/sow outdoors** 🟩 **Harvest** 🟧

Key crops for August	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Chicory (sugarloaf) A useful source of beta-carotene, which helps to keep the membranes of our respiratory system in good working order.	🟧			🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧	**Tips** Water regularly during warm weather, as plants will start to run to seed prematurely if conditions get too dry. **Sow** ↓ 1cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 30cm apart ⤢ 30cm between rows
Kohlrabi Surprisingly rich in vitamin C, kohlrabi offers a wide range of health benefits including for our teeth and gums.		🟪	🟪🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧				**Tips** These are at their best when no larger than a tennis ball – if you let them grow bigger, they'll start to turn woody. **Sow** ↓ 2cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 23cm apart ⤢ 30cm between rows
Lettuces These salad essentials contain iron, folate and vitamin C, as well as potassium, which aids nerve and muscle function.			🟪	🟩	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧	🟧		**Tips** Harvest hearting lettuces as soon as they're mature, so they don't bolt (start to flower) in hot spells or rot in damp weather. **Sow** ↓ 1cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 15cm apart ⤢ 23cm between rows
Pak choi This leafy oriental green provides folate for healthy cell growth, and vitamin B6, which may help to regulate mood.				🟩	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧				**Tips** Water the developing plants regularly, ensuring the soil never fully dries out, so they produce lots of lush, green leaves. **Sow** ↓ 2cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 10cm apart ⤢ 45cm between rows
Radishes A member of the brassica family, these tangy roots supply cancer-protective compounds called glucosinolates.	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧	**Tips** Sow a short row every fortnight so you get continuous harvests but never too many at any one time. **Sow** ↓ 1cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 3cm apart ⤢ 15cm between rows
Spinach The leaves contain water-soluble vitamin C and B vitamins, so don't squeeze after cooking or you may lose these nutrients.	🟧	🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧	🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧	**Tips** When the weather is warm, sow in a partially shaded spot, as this will help to stop the plants bolting. **Sow** ↓ 2cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 15cm apart ⤢ 30cm between rows
Spring cabbages High in vitamin C, these tasty greens are also packed with immune-supportive compounds and gut-friendly fibre.		🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟩	🟩					**Tips** Net the crop to stop cabbage white butterflies laying eggs, and pick off any caterpillars you spot before they devour your crop. **Sow** ↓ 2cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 25cm apart ⤢ 30cm between rows
Spring onions Their protective plant compounds are at their most potent when eaten raw, so use them to pep up your salads.			🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧			**Tips** You can get higher yields from closer spacing, but the plants will be more susceptible to downy mildew. **Sow** ↓ 1cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 3cm apart ⤢ 30cm between rows
Swiss chard A source of some of the harder-to-get nutrients, including minerals such as magnesium, manganese and copper.			🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧		**Tips** Chard likes full sun, but it can also be grown in partial shade, especially over the summer months. **Sow** ↓ 2.5cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 20cm apart ⤢ 45cm between rows
Turnips This underrated cruciferous vegetable is a non-starchy, low-calorie addition to your plate that won't disrupt blood sugar levels.		🟪	🟪 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟩 🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧	**Tips** Turnips prefer soil that is high in nitrogen, so dig in lots of garden compost or well-rotted manure for the best results. **Sow** ↓ 2cm deep **Final spacing** ↔ 15cm apart ⤢ 30cm between rows

Visit GardenersWorld.com/what-to-do-now for more advice on the best crops to sow and plant this month, and how to do it

Gardeners' World offer

PINEBERRY 'WHITE DREAM'

SAVE £20

This unusual variety of strawberry, bred from two different strawberry plants, has a delicious pineapple-like flavour and incredible aroma. It's very easy to grow and is even winter hardy.

3 plants in 9cm Pots ~~£29.97~~ **£9.97** **SAVE £20** *(320015)*

Scan QR code to buy and for more great deals

yougarden.com/RGW301 Call **0844 502 0050*** quote code **RGW301**

Orders despatched from 5-7 working days. Please add £6.99 P&P to your order for any additional items purchased. Offer closes 31 August subject to availability. We reserve the right to substitute varieties. Delivery to UK only. £3 surcharge may apply to certain postcode areas. Unable to deliver to NI. Full details and T&Cs at yougarden.com. *Calls cost 5p per minute plus your network provider's access charge.

Gardeners' Question Time

Our experts tackle your queries, from sticky lemon trees to wilting olives, straggly Swiss cheese plants to worm-cast woes

Pippa Greenwood
One of the top experts on pests and diseases, Pippa gardens using organic methods.

Matt Biggs
Matt trained at Kew and has been gardening professionally for more than 30 years.

Matthew Pottage
Matthew is Head of Horticulture and Landscape Strategy at The Royal Parks.

Q How can I bring lasting colour to a sunny front garden on London clay?

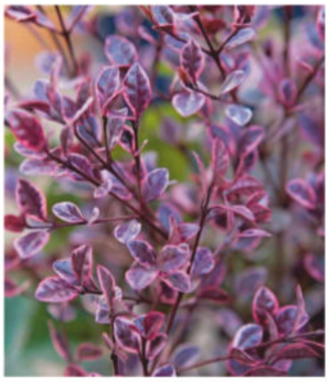
Sam Brown, London

A MATT B SAYS First, improve your clay soil by forking in plenty of homemade compost, so you can grow a wider range of plants. Suitable options include cheerful, ever-reliable geums, such as vivid orange 'Totally Tangerine', bright red 'Mrs J. Bradshaw' and deep yellow 'Lady Stratheden'. Deadhead them to extend their flowering season.

Roses also like clay. Try the shrub rose Bring Me Sunshine, whose apricot blooms get paler with age. Interplant with alliums, such as 'Purple Sensation', putting gravel in the planting hole to improve drainage. Hardy geraniums would thrive here too, including long-flowering violet-blue Rozanne, and heucheras are an ideal edging – try 'Green Spice', whose silvery-green leaves have bold purple veins.

Q&A TEAM ANSWER
Easy plants for clay soil

Geum 'Totally Tangerine' flowers from late spring to early autumn



Evergreen *Lophomyrtus* 'Magic Dragon' suits London gardens

A MATT P SAYS As you're in London, which has much milder winters than most of the UK, I would suggest you take a trip to a large garden centre and check out their range of hebes, or woody veronicas. Their evergreen foliage provides year-round interest, while the pretty flowers are good for pollinators. There have been many new introductions in recent years and the leaf colours and habits are enchanting. I recall one from a plant trial at the RHS Garden Wisley called *Veronica* 'Jewel of the Nile' – a real showstopper, with variegated green and yellow leaves, tinged with pink in winter. Sadly it couldn't survive the winter in Wisley's cold Surrey location, but in London it would be fine.

You could add some other New Zealand native shrubs too, such as lophomyrtus and corokia, which again provide interesting evergreen foliage and should flourish in London.

Q Are ants making my potted olive wilt?

Christine Armistead, by email

A PIPPA SAYS Ants can be an issue around a plant's roots, especially in a container. It's not that they eat the roots, but simply that their activity loosens and opens up the compost, which may separate the finer roots from the compost particles. It's these fine roots that take up moisture and nutrients, so disturbance like this can cause a plant's leaves to wilt.

But I also recommend that you check the roots and the compost closely, looking for signs of root death and for any soil-dwelling pests, such as vine weevil grubs. Dead roots could indicate a disease or perhaps winter damage by extreme cold or wet. Vine weevil grubs could kill an olive in a pot, posing a far greater threat and level of damage than the ants. So it's time for more detective work!

Give potted olives a warm, sunny spot and a generous pot

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS; JASON INGRAM

Feed your soil with homemade compost or organic manure

Q Which of all the various fertilisers should I use on my fruit and veg?

Chris Gould, by email

A **MATT P SAYS** I don't believe that all the different feeds are essential. Instead, aim to create a healthy soil ecosystem, then Mother Nature will care for your plants through the soil. By this I mean feeding the soil with bulky mulches and avoiding synthetic feeds. Mulch with shredded organic manure, and around established crops such as fruit bushes or perennial veg, you can add woodchips to it (preferably ones that have sat in a heap for a year, but this isn't essential). Homemade compost is good too, and if you feel the need to give your crops an extra boost, try seaweed extract, which won't disrupt the soil organisms.

The mulch will vanish after a year or so, as worms and fungi work their magic, so top it up annually in winter.

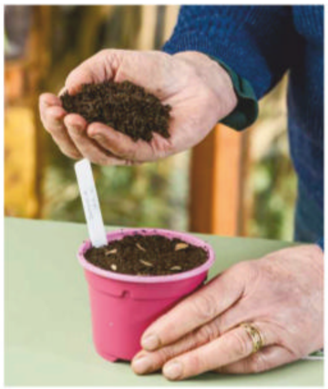
Q Which flowers could I sow this autumn?

Richard Bird, Suffolk

A **MATT B SAYS** Sowing annual flowers in autumn gives you earlier blooms, which also provide valuable early nectar for pollinators. You can sow hardy annuals, such as pot marigolds, love-in-a-mist, cornflowers, larkspur, antirrhinums or lacy white *Orlaya grandiflora*, in the ground or in pots in August and September. Cover the seedlings with fleece over winter.

Half-hardy annuals can be sown indoors or in an unheated greenhouse protected from frost with fleece if temperatures drop. These include California poppies and zinnias. Sow in modules in peat-free multipurpose compost, and keep the compost moist but not waterlogged, then plant out in late spring, after the last frost.

Hardy perennials can be sown in a greenhouse or outdoors.

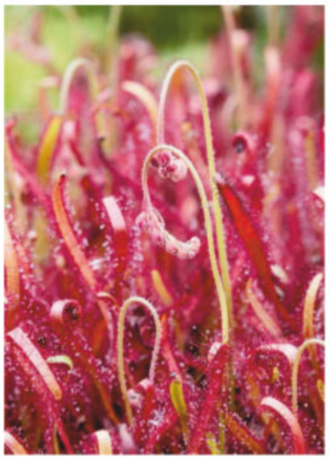


Sow zinnias in autumn and keep in a frost-free place

Q Would carnivorous plants keep greenhouse flies at bay?

Angela, by email

A **PIPPA SAYS** Carnivorous plants get a considerable amount of their nutrition from what they trap, be that in the snapping jaws of a Venus fly trap, on the sticky leaves of sundews or in the pitfall traps of pitcher plants. I have a thriving pitcher plant that I rescued, and it sits in my bay window, in conditions not dissimilar to a greenhouse. I'm convinced that the insect levels have been reduced by its presence. I suspect that red spider mites would be less likely to succumb to the lure of a carnivorous plant, but certainly flying pests should decrease in number. I think it unlikely you'll get 100 per cent control, but it will help, and it'll be interesting to see how many you need!

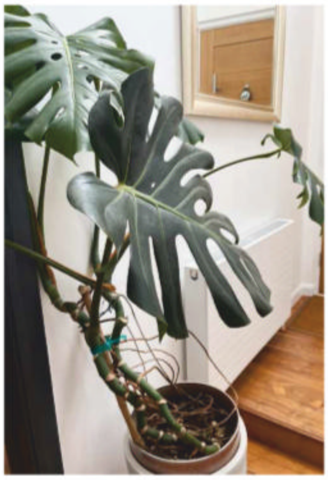


Carnivorous sundews can be fascinating pest controllers

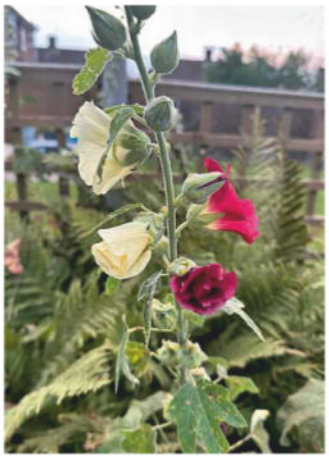
Q Can I make my leggy monstera bushier?

Ethan Hill, Cambridge

A **MATT P SAYS** In nature, Swiss cheese plants climb up trees, and in time always get taller and less bushy, so you're essentially wanting the plant to do something it doesn't naturally do. Bushy-looking specimens are usually several plants grown together in one pot. However, the internodes (stem sections between leaves) are always shorter in bright light, so putting yours in more sun may help to deter legginess.



Monstera grow taller in poor light and form fewer leaf holes

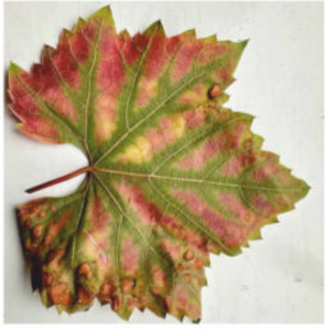


Weather or pest damage can alter flower development

Q Why does my hollyhock have two flower colours?

Debbie, Buckinghamshire

A **MATT B SAYS** Events such as this can be due to changes in plant cells caused by unusual growing conditions, including fluctuating temperatures, insect damage or drought. They aren't always permanent and your hollyhock flowers should return to their original colour next summer.



Warty and oddly coloured vine leaves indicate two problems

Q What is causing lumps on my grapevine leaves?

Margaret Herd, Cumbria

A **PIPPA SAYS** The raised, wart-like growths (galls) on the leaves may be due to eriophyid mites, but they shouldn't impact the health of your vine or its crop. The red-yellow colouring between the leaf veins also suggests there's a magnesium deficiency, which can be remedied with a foliar spray.

BBC Gardeners' World Fair *Autumn*

at Audley End House & Gardens, Essex
29-31 August 2025

LAST CHANCE TO SAVE!

Your Fair *is back!*

As we head into autumn, join us for garden inspiration that'll see you through to spring, with tips from your editors and a line-up including **Adam Frost**, **Rachel de Thame**, **Frances Tophill** and **Arit Anderson**. Plus plants, shopping, a day at Audley End and more. *See you there!*

Bring on autumn!

You'll want to fast-track to the next season with a note book full of top ideas from the Beautiful Borders and Showcase Gardens. Don't miss the Make A Metre Matter Garden, by award-winning designer Pip Probert, showing how we can all make positive changes in our gardens.

Featuring the goodFOOD MARKET

DOGS ON LEADS WELCOME

Autumn Table

Make and take home more than memories by taking part in a hands-on masterclass, from autumn **dried flower wreaths** to **seasonal table-top displays**. Plus, by popular demand **bug hotel**, **bouquet making** and **mushroom workshops** return.

Fair highlights

ADDED SPARKLE

Don't miss the **VIP Extra** package to enhance your day with a glass of fizz, VIP parking, VIP Lounge with more talks and a goody bag.

COMPETITION TIME

Discover great design in the always-popular APL Landscaper Competition, packing in savvy ideas for small garden spaces.

SUBSCRIBER PERKS

Get a warm welcome in your Club Lounge with extra seating, refreshment options and talks from your Editors and guests.

10%* off standard tickets with code GWR10 (excl. 1.30pm entry)
Book now at **bbcgardenersworldfair.com**

Gardeners' World magazine Subscriber CLUB
Save 15%†
(quote your subscriber number when booking)

Autumn Fair sponsors and supporters:

Regent · BRADSTONE · Rolawn · The Association of Professional Landscapers

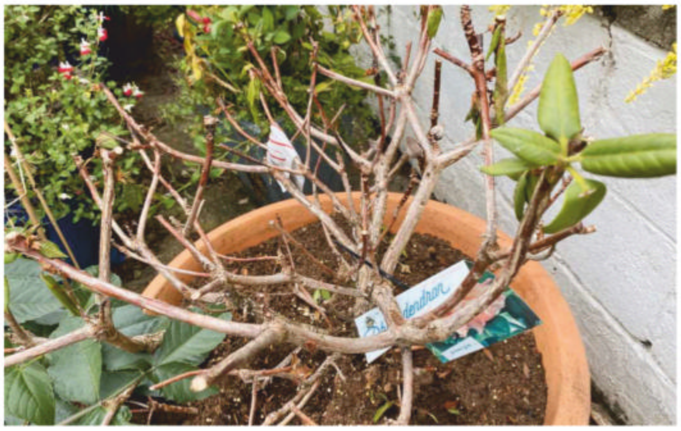
*Discounts valid on adult/over 65s standard entry tickets only. Not valid on 1:30pm tickets, groups, added extras, or with any other offer. Offers end 23:59 on 11 August 2025. £3.95 transaction fee per e-ticket order. The Gardeners' World logo is a trademark of the BBC. © BBC. The Good Food trademark is used under licence from Immediate Media Company London Limited. Organised by Immediate Live (trading name of River Street Events Ltd).

Supported by English Heritage

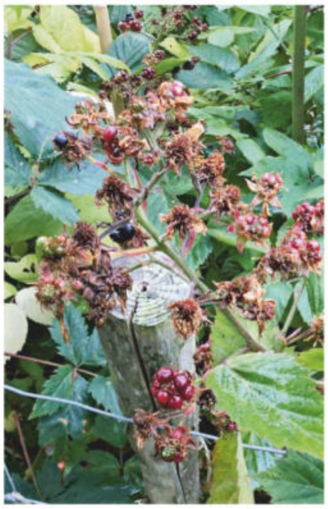
Q What's wrong with my rhododendron, and can it be saved?

Richard Dragonetti, Nottingham

A MATT P SAYS Sadly your plant looks to be beyond saving. I would say it has either been over or under watered, or has lost its roots to vine weevil larvae. These soil-dwellers eat plant roots and particularly enjoy rhododendrons in pots – check the compost for white C-shaped grubs with a brown head.



Pests or watering issues can damage roots and lead to leaf loss



Fruit formation can be affected by poor growing conditions

Q Why are my blackberries not forming properly?

Barbara Watt, Cornwall

A PIPPA SAYS I suspect that your plant has been impacted by its growing conditions – probably salty winds that damaged the developing fruits or the flowers. Cultivated blackberry varieties are more likely to be damaged by adverse conditions than wild blackberries, or brambles, which tend to be inherently tougher.

You say that the leaves usually start to go brown too – I can't see this in your photo, so I assume it happens a little later in the year, perhaps again due to the growing conditions or maybe a leaf infection. From what I can see and what you describe, sadly I suspect it is unlikely that your plant will do what it should.

Q Can I grow blackberries from my tastiest foraged berries?

William Reeves, by email

A MATT P SAYS You can of course grow blackberries from seed – they germinate easily, as many of us know from weeding out seedlings that have arrived courtesy of birds! However, the only way to guarantee that the new plants will have the characteristics of your favourite fruits is to take cuttings or use tip layering.

However, I would suggest that the work has been done for you, as there are many superb blackberry varieties to choose from. Look out for 'Ouachita', with fabulously large fruits and thornless stems. Delicious 'Loch Ness' and 'Oregon Thornless' are prolific and thorn-free too. The latter is my favourite as it also has fine-cut foliage, giving you all the joys of delicious fruit, with pretty leaves and no prickles.

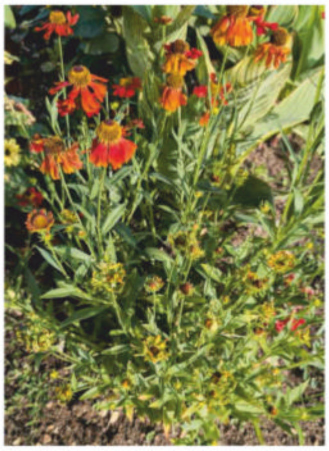
Q&A HOT TOPIC Blackberry growing

Thornless blackberry 'Loch Ness' offers pain-free harvesting

Q What happened to this helenium on my allotment?

Pip, Hampshire

A PIPPA SAYS This does look rather sad! I suspect that a virus or indeed several viruses may be responsible. If it were in my garden, the plant would now be on its way to the bin, as many viruses are easily spread by handling an infected plant or by sap-feeding insects or even some soil-dwelling nematodes.



Plant viruses can stunt growth and are liable to spread easily

Q Can I replant the suckers on my hibiscus?

Heather, by email

A MATT P SAYS Hibiscus plants do occasionally produce suckers, but I wouldn't say it's a very common occurrence. They should transplant successfully for you if you can lift them with enough roots. I'd dig them out in winter when they are dormant and replant in a nice warm, sunny spot, which they love.

Hibiscus can be propagated from cuttings or suckers

PHOTOS: GETTY/FLOWERPHOTOS, RAJ KAMAL

Q&A gardeners' question time

Q My lemon has a sticky substance on its foliage and leaves often fall off. What's up?

Debbie, Ontario, Canada

A PIPPA SAYS It sounds like your lemon tree has a scale insect infestation, most likely soft scale. These tiny elliptical-shaped pests feed on the sugary sap, mainly beneath the leaves and along leaf veins. The sap is so sugar-rich that the insects can't digest all of it, so their excreta is sugary too, and commonly known as honeydew. It makes a sticky, sugary film on the plant and anything beneath it, often then attracting a harmless black sooty mould. In the UK you can buy nematodes to treat scale insect infestations.

Examine the stems and leaves for small, domed scale insects

Q Why is my new rowan tree turning brown?

Jim Satchwell, Shropshire

A MATT B SAYS New trees need regular watering for the first two or three years at least, until the roots are established. Also make sure it isn't planted too deeply. You say your soil is free-draining, but rowans prefer humus-rich, moisture-retentive soil, so apply mulch over the surrounding area, leaving a small gap around the base of the trunk.

Make sure new trees don't dry out, especially in summer

Wisterias tend to be long lived and can outlast a wooden pergola

Q Is it possible to rebuild a pergola without destroying the wisteria on it?

Simon Favell, Northamptonshire

A MATT P SAYS A healthy wisteria should cope with severe pruning and regenerate just fine. This is best done in the dormant (winter) period. I would start by dismantling as much of the old pergola as possible, cutting it up and trying to untangle and retain some sort of main framework of wisteria stems to train back onto the new structure. Then prune out any dead, damaged or really tangled stems. Anything too long can be shortened to a suitable side branch, or if there aren't any, just make the cut along the stem. The soft, whippy new shoots that will sprout with great vigour from the pruned stems will need a few years of the usual wisteria pruning method to build up flowering buds again.

Q How can I deter worms, as my lawn is covered in casts?

Mrs G Rees, by email

A PIPPA SAYS Oh dear, your 'problem' is something that many people would be only too delighted to have! While I do understand that worm casts could be irritating, I would never encourage you to try and deter earthworms. These creatures are such a vital part of the nutrient recycling process and also help to aerate the soil. All of these are so important to your soil's health and consequently the health of your plants and all other plants in the vicinity.

However, it does sound as if you have an unusually large number of wormcasts and I think you should consider these to be the thing that needs sorting, not the earthworms themselves. An old-fashioned but easy and highly recommended method is to use a besom – one of those twiggy brooms usually seen with a witch sitting astride the handle! You can use it to brush off and spread the wormcasts with an easy flicking motion, but you'll need to do this on a regular basis if you want to keep your lawn clear.

Worm casts tend to be more prevalent during damp weather

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; TIM SANDALL

Catch up with

Gardeners' Question Time Enjoy fascinating listeners' questions and answers from the experts every week, on BBC Radio 4, Fridays at 3pm, repeated on Sundays at 2pm.

BBC RADIO 4

Send in your questions

Email **Q&A@gardenersworld.com** (including the county you live in) or write to **Q&A, *GW Magazine*, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, London W6 7BT**

We regret that we cannot offer a personal garden advisory service.

Struggle to get in and out of your old bath? NO WORRIES!

30 YEARS AQUABILITY

BATH OUT – SHOWER IN – IN JUST ONE DAY!*

Designed to fit in the same space as your old bath, our Shower Module's unique construction enables it to be **FITTED IN JUST ONE DAY*** with **NO MESS, NO FUSS** and **NO RE-TILING either!**

- **Hygienic easy clean tile effect panels**
- **Easy access – low step in**
- **Optional seat and grab rail**
- **Other door styles available**
- **Slip-resistant floor**
- **Built-in shelving**

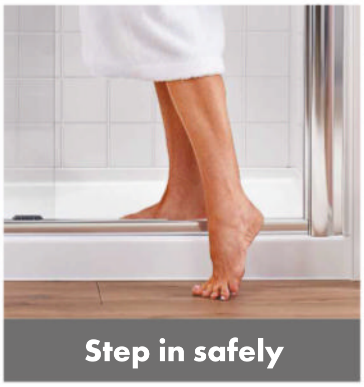
SALE UP TO 20% OFF**

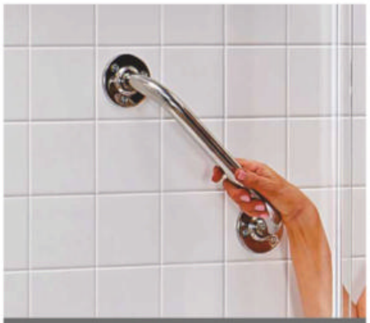
Trustpilot ★★★★★
Rated 'Excellent'

FITTED IN JUST **ONE DAY***

FITS IN THE **SAME SPACE** AS YOUR **OLD BATH**

Sit in comfort


Step in safely


Steady your balance

Thermostatic control

For more details and a **FREE** brochure call

0800 316 0110

ASK FOR EXTENSION 83127

To learn more scan the QR code or visit **AQUABILITY.COM**

*Time based on straightforward fitting. **Not in conjunction with any other offer.

For more information and a **FREE** colour brochure return this coupon to
FREEPOST RRGY-AHAX-AHSX, Aquability UK Ltd, Farnborough, GU14 0NR. **83127**

Name
Tel
Address

Postcode
Email

AQUABILITY
EASY, SAFE BATHING

Has bathing become a struggle?

Step into comfort with a **stylish Walk-In Shower.**

Fast installation! No mess! No fuss!

SUMMER OFFER
£500
Cash Back
On installations booked before 31/08/25. T&Cs apply, see website for details.

Lifetime Installation Guarantee

As a family-run company, we understand that maintaining your independence and comfort at home is crucial.

Our easy-access, **walk-in showers**, **walk-in baths**, **wheelchair-friendly wet rooms** and **comfort-height toilets** are installed quickly and safely, by our own dedicated team. We manage all the changes, from concept to completion, giving you total peace of mind.

Which bathing solution is right for you?

WET ROOMS

WALK-IN BATHS

Trustpilot ★★★★★

Which? Trusted Trader ★★★★★

Scan the code
to visit
our website

Walk-In Shower Solutions

- Fits in the same space as your old bath
- Fast installation, in as little as a day
- Low-level, slip-resistant shower trays
- Fold-flat, comfortable shower seat
- Secure shower grab handle rail
- Modern designs, tailored to you

BESPOKE SERVICE | HELPFUL & CARING TEAM | EXPERT INSTALLERS | NATIONWIDE SERVICE

To book a FREE consultation or for our latest brochure

Call free 0800 311 8955

or visit: eamobility.com

ea mobility Group

Puzzles

Take a break from the garden with these brainteasers

In a jam

Fill out this list of six fruits that can be used to make delicious jams and jellies. If completed correctly, the highlighted letters will spell out the name of a seventh fruit.

_ _ ☐ _ _ _
_ _ _ ☐ _ _ _ _ _
_ _ ☐ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
_ ☐ _ _
_ ☐ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ ☐ _ _

Step by step

By changing one letter each time to make a new word, can you transform TURF into LAWN in six steps or less?

TURF
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
LAWN

Full of flowers

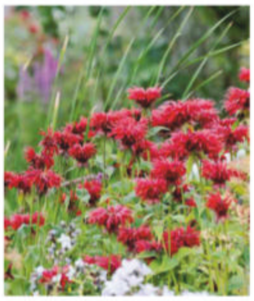
O	F	A	I	G	E	L	I	U	Q	A	N
A	L	E	G	L	O	M	P	E	U	I	D
D	A	U	L	L	R	X	V	A	N	U	I
E	G	I	P	Y	E	O	O	V	E	A	A
S	E	D	N	I	L	L	E	L	P	H	N
E	V	O	R	G	N	O	S	R	H	S	T
R	E	Y	X	O	S	X	O	E	M	P	H
P	I	O	N	Y	E	O	R	O	E	Q	U
U	F	K	C	O	H	Y	L	L	O	H	S
L	L	Y	O	N	L	D	I	S	R	A	N
C	A	M	P	A	N	U	L	A	S	H	O
A	Q	O	L	Q	U	S	L	N	X	O	F

Can you find these 10 cottage-garden favourites hidden in the grid?

AQUILEGIA
CAMPANULA
DIANTHUS
FOXGLOVE
HOLLYHOCK
LUPIN
PEONY
PHLOX
RESEDA
ROSE

Late bloomers

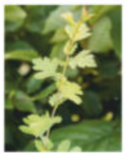
Unscramble the anagrams to spell out four plants that will brighten up gardens in August.



GREAT MOB ________
MONICA TELLS ________
ANGRY HEAD ________
I DUCK BEAR ________

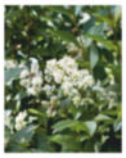
Boundary mix-up

Here are four plants that make ideal hedges – but they've got a bit muddled. Can you match the correct genus and species to each picture?



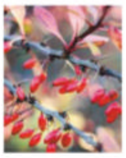
LIGUSTRUM THUNBERGII

____
____



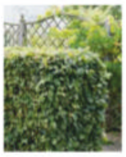
CARPINUS OVALIFOLIUM

____
____



CRATAEGUS BETULUS

____
____



BERBERIS MONOGYNA

____
____

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; PAUL DEBOIS; GETTY/LIUDMILA CHERNETSKA; JASON INGRAM

Puzzle solutions over page ▶

Crossword

Put down your trowel, pick up a pen and exercise those brain muscles instead...

ACROSS

1 Love and Wishes is a popular example of these long-flowering, nectar-rich summer bloomers (7)

7 Hard, tart, golden-skinned fruit used for jams and jellies (6)

8 Tender perennial that brightens summer borders (5)

9 Cheerful, daisy-like staples of the late-summer garden (6)

11 Omnivorous insects that snack on pests and petals (7)

12 Large social wasp – a useful garden predator (6)

14 *Leucanthemum* x *superbum* is better known as __ daisy (6)

18 A poppy genus (7)

22 *Veronica* Blue __ is a bountiful summer bloomer (4)

23 A name for *Rosa rubiginosa*, or sweet briar (9)

24 Chard and beetroot belong to this genus (4)

25 Cornelian cherry is a name for *Cornus* __ (3)

26 The dry outer coverings of some fruits and seeds (5)

DOWN

1 Remove these unwanted underground growths from roses (7)

2 Cottage-garden bloomer known as honesty (7)

3 Love-__-__-__ is a romantic name for *Nigella damascena* (2-1-4)

4 A fruit belonging to the cucurbit family (6)

5 Deciduous climber that could do with a summer prune (8)

6 The maple genus (4)

10 'Tee __', a dahlia with bright yellow blooms (3)

13 Pheasant's __ or *Adonis annua* is an endangered wildflower (3)

15 A bed for early sowings, warmed by a layer of manure (6)

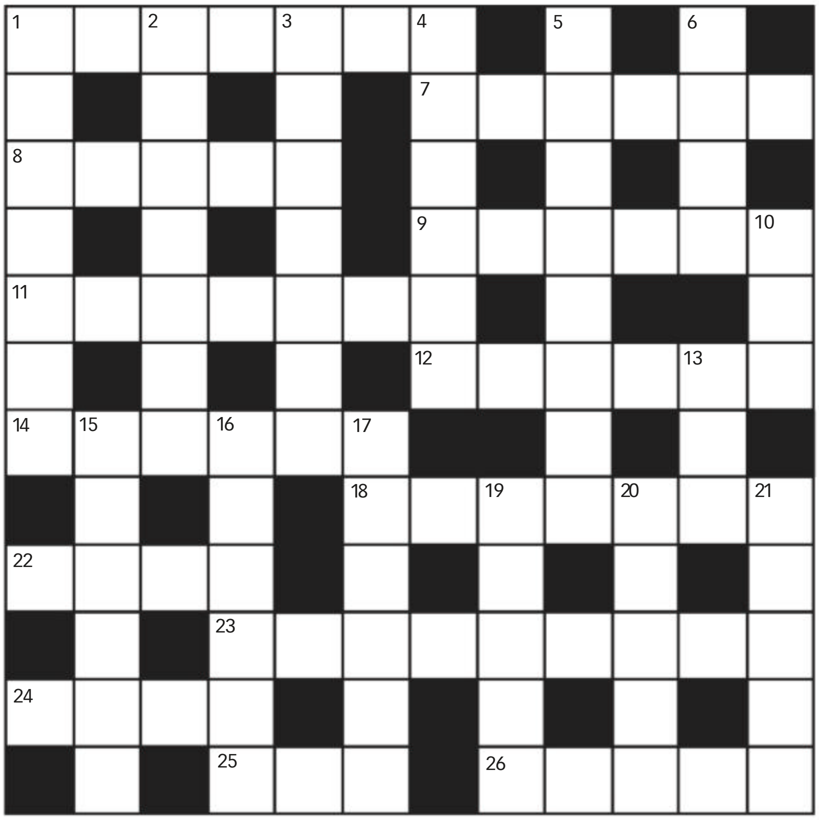
16 'Gulf __' is a heavenly bamboo with vibrant colour (6)

17 Summer-prune trained forms of these fruit favourites (6)

19 It's time to __ out new sideshoots from tomatoes (5)

20 Vascular tissues that carry nutrients around a leaf (5)

21 Tall, hollow grass-like plants found in water or marshland (5)



CROSSWORD AND PUZZLES COMPILED BY NICOLA TREVETT

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

In a jam Damson, blueberry, redcurrant, plum, raspberry, cherry – hidden word: medlar
Step by step There are several possible solutions, including: turf turn torn town down dawn lawn
Late bloomers Bergamot, callistemon, hydrangea, rudbeckia
Boundary mix-up *Crataegus monogyna, Ligustrum ovalifolium, Berberis thunbergii, Carpinus betulus*

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS 1 Salvias **7** Quince **8** Canna **9** Asters **11** Earwigs **12** Hornet **14** Shasta **18** Papaver **22** Star **23** Eglantine **24** Beta **25** Mas **26** Husks
DOWN 1 Suckers **2** Lunaria **3** In-a-mist **4** Squash **5** Wisteria **6** Acer **10** Set **13** Eye **15** Hotbed **16** Stream **17** Apples **19** Pinch **20** Veins **21** Reeds

Gardeners' World magazine

Issue number 413

EDITORIAL REVIEW BOARD
Executive Producer, *Gardeners' World*, Bristol Rosemary Edwards
Series Producer, *Gardeners' World* Sharon Fisher

ADVERTISING
ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES:
tim.bennett@immediate.co.uk
Head of Clients Tim Bennett
Head of Inserts (London/SE) Lindsay Martin
Senior Account Manager Sundeep Prakash
NORTHERN AGENCY SALES:
Advertising Director Gavin Barber 0161 240 4021

Regional Business Development Manager Liane Birchall 0161 240 4027
Direct Business Development Manager Richard Burns 0161 240 4026
BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE EVENTS Lucy Tremlett, Event Director 020 7150 5130

PUBLISHING AND MARKETING
Senior Management Accountant Youssra Hamdalla

PRODUCTION AND AD SERVICES
Production Director Koli Pickersgill
Production Manager Joanne Beattie
Ad Services/Display Cherine Robins
Ad Services/Classified James Webb
Head of Ad Services Eleanor Parkman-Eason

CIRCULATION AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
Acting Head of Subscriptions Acquisitions Sally Longstaff
Trade Marketing Director Martin Hoskins
Senior Direct Marketing Executive Meg Padley
Director of International Licencing & Syndication tim.hudson@immediate.co.uk

Basic annual rate 12 issues: UK £84.24; Europe and Republic of Ireland €118; Rest of the World $166

IMMEDIATE MEDIA LEADERSHIP
CEO Sean Cornwell
Group Managing Director Alex White
CFO & COO Dan Constanda
Non-Executive Chairman Tom Bureau

BBC Gardeners' World Magazine is published by **Immediate Media Company London Ltd** under licence from BBC Studios, which helps fund new BBC programmes.

We abide by IPSO's rules and regulations. To give feedback about our magazines, please visit **immediate.co.uk**, email **editorialcomplaints@immediate.co.uk**, or write to Katherine Conlon, Immediate Media Company, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, London W6 7BT

BBC STUDIOS, UK PUBLISHING
SVP Global Licensing Stephen Davies
Global Director Magazines Mandy Thwaites
Compliance Manager Cameron McEwan
Website: bbcstudios.com

ISSN 0961-7477. Copyright ©Immediate Media Company London Ltd 2025. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part prohibited without permission. The BBC logo is a trademark of the British Broadcasting Corporation and is used under licence. ©British Broadcasting Corporation 1996. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or part, in English or other languages, is prohibited. This work may not be photocopied or otherwise reproduced within the terms of any licence granted by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd or the Publishers' Licensing Society Ltd. The publisher cannot accept responsibility for errors in articles or advertisements, or for unsolicited manuscripts, photographs or illustrations. Dates and prices are correct at time of going to press. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher. Immediate Media Company London Ltd is a registered data user whose entries in the Data Protection Register contain descriptions of sources and disclosures of personal data. Printed by Walstead Roche in the UK. Immediate Media Company is working to ensure that all of its paper comes from well-managed, FSC®-certified forests and other controlled sources. This magazine is printed on FSC®-certified paper. This magazine can be recycled, for use in newspapers and packaging. Please remove any gifts, samples or wrapping and dispose of them at your local collection point.

BioBloom

SOIL ENRICHER

Great For Your Garden, Great For Our Planet

Nourish soil with a layer of BioBloom Soil Enricher for a vibrant, thriving & healthy garden.

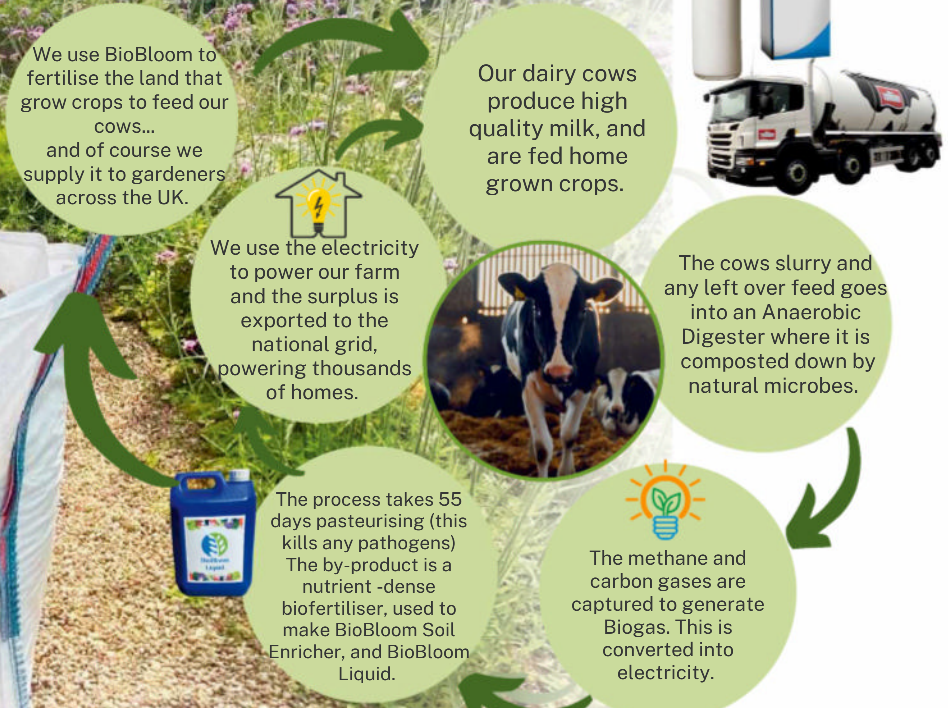
Natural
Affordable
Nutrient Rich

Sustainable
Weed Suppressant
Sterile & Weed Free

Slow Releasing
High In Organic Matter
Peat Free

Nationwide Delivery

BioBloom
SOIL ENRICHER
www.thomassonfarms.co.uk
01270 291 037



We use BioBloom to fertilise the land that grow crops to feed our cows... and of course we supply it to gardeners across the UK.

Our dairy cows produce high quality milk, and are fed home grown crops.

The cows slurry and any left over feed goes into an Anaerobic Digester where it is composted down by natural microbes.

The methane and carbon gases are captured to generate Biogas. This is converted into electricity.

The process takes 55 days pasteurising (this kills any pathogens) The by-product is a nutrient -dense biofertiliser, used to make BioBloom Soil Enricher, and BioBloom Liquid.

We use the electricity to power our farm and the surplus is exported to the national grid, powering thousands of homes.

> "I never use anything else! This really broke down my clay soil. My flowers and vegetables are absolutely thriving! I also used BioBloom as a mulch for my vegetable garden and flower beds. I ended up with more tomatoes than I knew what to do with and my roses had a beautiful first year."

We also supply:
BioSoil - A ready mixed blend of BioBloom & clean topsoil
BioBloom Liquid
Decorative Woodchip
Find out more & place your order:

SCAN ME

01270 291037

www.thomassonfarms.co.uk

Marketplace **Product Directory**

Timeless Earrings, Thoughtfully Made

Ear Wings by Potter & Mooch.
Our Ear Wings climber earrings blend natural elegance with timeless design. Handcrafted with care, each pair is made for a single piercing and created using hypoallergenic, nickel-free materials - perfect for sensitive ears. A thoughtful gift or personal treat, they're loved by all ages.

Featured Design: Peony Petals on Yellow Gold – £36. Buy 1 pair and get a second with 30% off. Find your perfect pair. Shop online or call to order.

(+44) 01903 331744
potterandmooch.co.uk

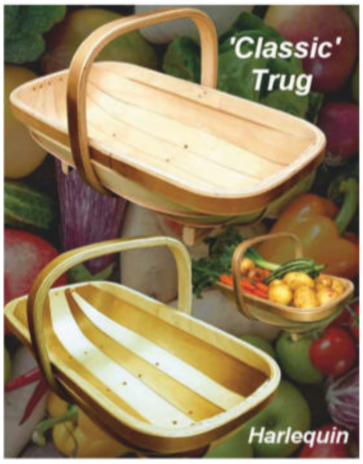
ORGANIC LEMON EXTRACT
ORGANIC PEPPERMINT EXTRACT
ORGANIC ORANGE EXTRACT

Get Baking with Organic Extracts

Specially crafted for home baking. These quality organic extracts give a rich, zesty citrus or mint flavour for your baking and desserts - an essential in sponges and buttercreams. Check out foodieflavours.com for great recipes and ideas for these three cupboard essentials - Lemon, Orange and Peppermint Organic Extracts.

RRP £7.99 - available from our website or amazon.co.uk

foodieflavours.com



The Sussex Trug

The Sussex Trug is a traditional tool that is probably more cherished than any other item in the tool shed. It makes the perfect gift that will be used for a lifetime to harvest the garden produce.

Hand made in Sussex, signed, dated, guaranteed for life and sent next day.

A choice of five sizes with the popular No.7 (Large) at just £54.90 +p&p.

Visit my website or phone ANYTIME for easy ordering.

01323 440452
trugmakers.co.uk

Commission a Sculpture of Your Pet!

Trained sculptor Barry Sykes creates life-sized portrait sculptures of your dearest pets or favourite creatures. Working from your photographs he crafts them from strong wire mesh, so they're suitable indoors or out in the garden.

Established in 2001 we ship all over the world, or you can pick up from our London studio.

Contact us below to discuss your ideas and get a quote.

07951039663
animalsinwire.co.uk

Oketor
Haytor
Welstor

Comfort with Style – Leather Mules

A small family business offering high quality leather mules in three styles (one suitable for a wider foot) and seven colours.

Perfect for indoor and outdoor wear. An arch support is an integral feature helping to create additional comfort.

We offer sizes 2-14 (35-49).
Prices £60.00 and £65.00
with £3.50 P&P (2nd class)
or £5.50 P&P (1st class).

01364 652733
themulecompany.co.uk

Wire-Free Comfort up to K Cup

'I wear a 40ff bra and have never found a soft bra to fit me properly, until now! So comfortable & gives gentle support. Wonderful to wear when gardening because there is nothing to rub or irritate, they don't dig in the ribs, don't roll up and the straps don't cut in.'
Susan (5-star review)

The Fuller Cup bra, from the Big Bloomers Company, fits E-K cup, back sizes 30 to 54 inches.

01326 373268
thebigbloomerscompany.co.uk

Peak District Lodge Holidays

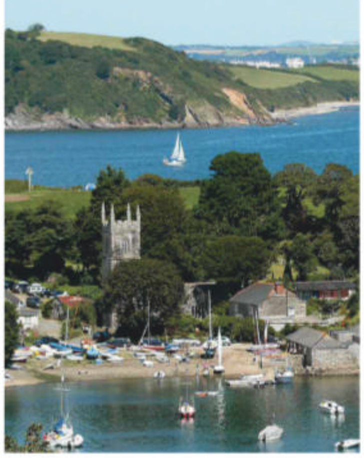
Sandybrook Lodges are an ideal base from which to explore the Peak District National Park.

The award winning holiday park has 53 luxury lodges and a swimming pool onsite. It is close to the picturesque market town of Ashbourne and the stunning Dovedale.

The lodges sleep from 2-8 people, with spa lodges including a hot tub.

There are also pet-friendly lodges available.

01335 300000
sandybrook.co.uk



St Anthony Holiday Cottages

Cornish Creekside cottages situated on the edge of Gillan Creek and the Helford River.

Superb coastal walks with Boat Hire and Moorings on site. A selection of Cornwall's finest gardens within easy driving distance. All these combine to make St Anthony one of the most unspoilt and attractive holiday destinations in Cornwall.

Self-catering – pet friendly – sleeping 2 – 12 – open all year.

info@stanthony.co.uk
stanthony.co.uk

GardenBird
UK's No 1 Quality Bird Food Supplier
★★★★★
Over 300,000
Happy Customers

20% off
your first order
Use offer code
GWGB20

dpd
FREE Express Delivery
on orders over £25

Whole & Split Peanuts
12.55kg **£23.99** | 25.1kg **£45.99**

Sunflower Hearts
12.55kg **£19.99** | 20kg **£29.19**

Premium No Grow No Mess Seed Mix
12.55kg **£24.99** | 25.1kg **£43.99**

Premium Suet Balls
50 Box **£13.99** | 150 Box **£24.99**

20% off offer ends 30/09/25. This offer code can only be used once. Some exclusions apply, please visit https://www.gardenbird.co.uk/terms-and-conditions for full details.
*Delivery charges apply for orders under £25 or post codes classed as 'out of areas'. See www.gardenbird.co.uk/delivery. Prices shown are subject to change.

Find our full range at **www.gardenbird.co.uk** or call us on **01772 455000** (8.30am - 5pm Monday to Friday)

Roamwild PestOff 2.0™
Bird Feeder
NOT JUST SQUIRREL PROOF!
Improved in every way imaginable.
This Bird Feeder is a fortress against
any squirrel, crow, pigeon or rat.

Hurry! Order online now for superfast delivery
www.roamwildproducts.co.uk
CREDIT CARD ORDERLINE: 0208 327 0455
During office hours only Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm excluding bank holidays

OVER ONE MILLION SOLD ACROSS THE UK AND USA

HOW IT WORKS
PORT OPEN **PORT CLOSED**
INDIVIDUALLY SPRING LOADED
when anything heavier than a songbird
lands on the perch it closes.

ROAMWILD GUARANTEE If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase return within 7 days for a full refund of purchase price.

Please send cheque in stamped envelope to: Oakthrift, Sevenacres, Sevenacres Lane, Maldon CM9 8HD. Please send me the following:

Item	*Price*	*Qty*	*Total*
1 x Roamwild™ PestOff 2.0 Bird Feeder	£34.99		
Please add £4.99 postage to complete order			£4.99
		Grand Total	£

I enclose a cheque (payable to Roamwild) for £ ____________
or charge my Mastercard/Visa/Maestro/Switch. Card No: ____________
Security Code (last 3 digits): __/__/__ Expiry Date: __/__
Issue No (Switch/Maestro): ________ Signature: ____________
Name: ____________
Address: ____________
____________ Post Code: ____________
Tel No: ____________ Email: ____________
We do not rent out your details to third parties

Keeps Seed Dry
GUARANTEED PATENTED
Designed in the UK
roamwild
PRACTICAL • FUNCTIONAL
EXCEPTIONAL

Buying Bird Feed?

20% OFF YOUR ORDER

YOU MUST USE OFFER CODE GWDGWAD

Enticing a wide variety of wild birds into your garden enriches your garden life, your life and encourages biodiversity.

And by complementing the birds' natural diet with nutrient enriched food will help them thrive and survive and wanting to return time and time again.

- ✓ Top quality Bird Food at affordable prices.
- ✓ Wide selection of seeds, mealworms and feeding stations.
- ✓ Expert advice and guidance available to all.
- ✓ Join the Loyalty Scheme for increased savings.

FREE DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER £25*

Excellent
★★★★★
Rated **4.8** / 5 based
on **21,740 reviews**
on ★ **Trustpilot**

Sunflower Hearts
5kg: **£12.49** | 12.55kg: **£19.99**

Premium Insect Suet Pellets
3kg: **£10.99** | 12.55kg: **£24.99**

Premium Suet Balls
50: **£13.99** | 150: **£24.99**

Sunflower Hearts Chips, Peanut Granules and Suet Pellets
5kg: **£17.49** | 12.55kg: **£31.99**

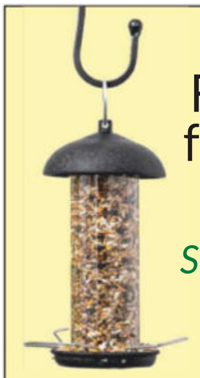
Premium No Grow/No Waste/No Mess Seed Mix
5kg: **£13.99** | 12.55kg: **£24.99**

Songbird Summer Mix
5kg: **£11.99** | 12.55kg: **£20.99**

Wild Bird Fat Balls
50: **£11.99** | 150: **£20.99**

No Wheat Wild Bird Seed Mix
5kg: **£9.49** | 12.55kg: **£14.99**

Wild Bird Peanuts
5kg: **£14.99** | 12.55kg: **£28.99**



Seed Feeders from only **£3.99!**

See the full range of feeders and bird feed

www.gardenwildlifedirect.co.uk

The best way to feed your garden birds from our fabulous range of bird food is with a top-quality garden bird feeder. We have a huge selection of all types of bird feeders and bird tables for every type of food and every location.

ORDER TODAY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SAVINGS

CALL ON 01772 440 242 *(24hrs a day, 7 days a week)*

Visit us at www.gardenwildlifedirect.co.uk and quote the code ***GWDGWAD*** *to receive your 20% discount!*

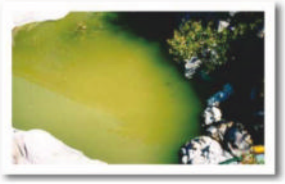
GardenWildlifeDirect

20% off offer ends 30/09/2025. The offer code can only be used once. Some exclusions apply, please visit www.gardenwildlifedirect.co.uk/terms-and-conditions for full details.***Delivery charges apply for orders under £25 & post codes classed as 'out of areas'.**See www.gardenwildlifedirect.co.uk/delivery. Prices shown are subject to change.

Aquaplancton

Voted Home and Garden "Product of the Year"

Pond before



Pond after

Aquaplancton has been clearing ponds of blanket weed, duckweed, algae, green water, sludge, slime, odour and clogged filters, for over 35 years. This safe, natural remedy could do the same for your pond.

www.aquaplancton.co.uk

Tel: 01298 214003

Concrete Post Fixings (Wire Anchors) & Easy Trellising System

Wire Anchor

Quick & Easy Solution to fix wires to concrete posts

NO DRILLING - simply clamp the two halves together

Three sizes to fit most concrete posts

Main Stockists of Gripple Trellising

Wire Anchor with Gripple Trellising System

FREE UK DELIVERY

Visit our website to view our other gardening accessories and gift ideas

RivelinGlen
Products

www.rivelinglenproducts.co.uk
info@rivelinglenproducts.co.uk
01246 462666

The Only Cat Deterrent

RSPB

Made in Britain

Tested and approved by the RSPB

2 YEAR WARRANTY
Inaudible to humans and harmless to all species
CATWatch

Protect birds and gardens from cats all year round

For a brochure and free friendly advice

01438 727183

CATWatch ULTRASONIC

www.conceptresearch.co.uk

Additional deterrents available to deter Foxes, Mice, Pine Martens etc...

Nationwide HOME INNOVATIONS

HIGH-QUALITY, CUSTOM-MADE VERANDAS, AWNINGS, AND PERGOLAS

BESPOKE, BEAUTIFUL, BUILT TO LAST

ENJOY UP TO
25% OFF
0% FINANCE*
+
5 YEAR GUARANTEE
MADE IN BRITAIN

- ✓ Custom made to suit your property
- ✓ Built to the highest quality
- ✓ Wide range of styles and finishes
- ✓ Huge choice of colours
- ✓ **FREE** design consultation
- ✓ Full installation service
- ✓ 5 Year Guarantee on all products
- ✓ Range of finance options available

Call now for your **FREE** design consultation and take the first step towards your perfect outdoor space.

☎ **0800 825 0532**

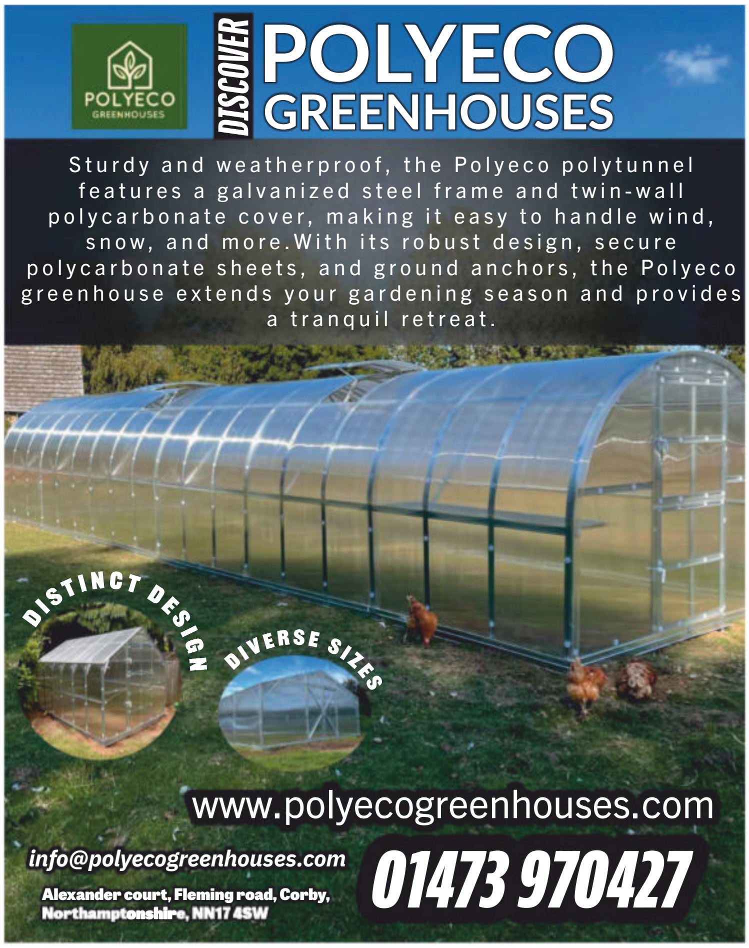
Or visit: **www.nationwideltd.co.uk**

Trustpilot ★★★★★

We've been improving homes for over 30 years. With 50,000+ satisfied customers, backed by an unwavering commitment to exceptional quality and service.

* Credit is subject to status and affordability. Representative Example: Cash price £12,000.00, 50% deposit of £6,000.00, amount of credit £6,000.00, annual rate of interest 0% p.a fixed, 0% APR Representative, 24 monthly repayments of £250.00, total amount payable £12,000.00 (including deposit). Terms & Conditions apply. NATIONWIDE HOME INNOVATIONS LIMITED (FRN: 728762), Unit 22, Sandford Lane Industrial Estate, Sandford Lane, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4DY, UNITED KINGDOM, is a credit broker, not a lender, and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Credit is provided by a panel of lenders with whom we have a commercial relationship, so we cannot provide independent advice.

✓ 24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE*


POLYECO GREENHOUSES

DISCOVER **POLYECO GREENHOUSES**

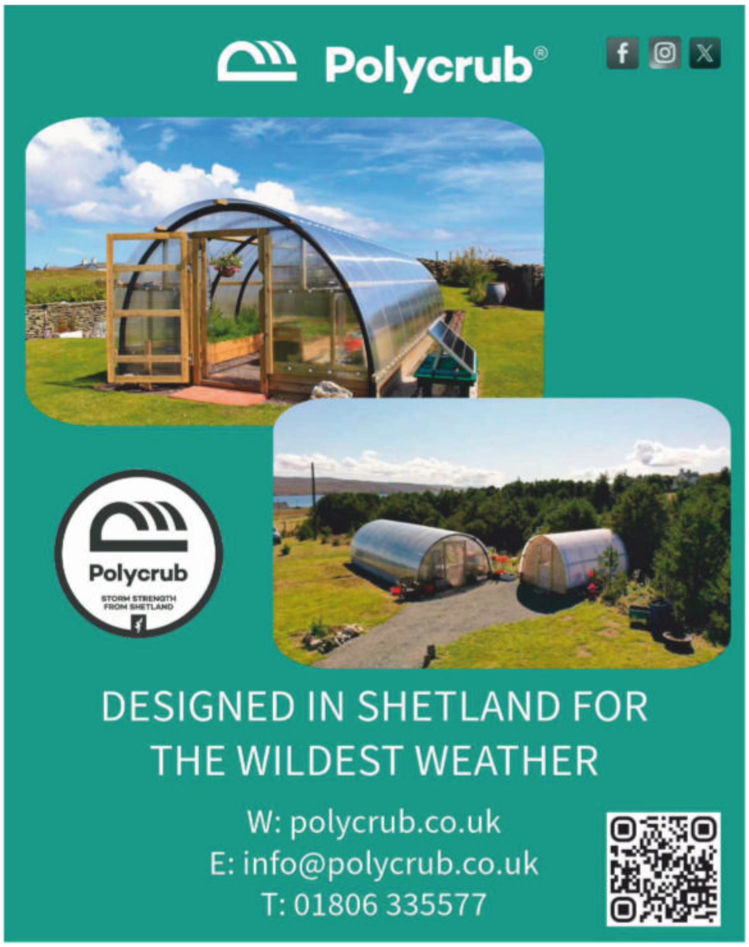
Sturdy and weatherproof, the Polyeco polytunnel features a galvanized steel frame and twin-wall polycarbonate cover, making it easy to handle wind, snow, and more.With its robust design, secure polycarbonate sheets, and ground anchors, the Polyeco greenhouse extends your gardening season and provides a tranquil retreat.

www.polyecogreenhouses.com

info@polyecogreenhouses.com

01473 970427

Alexander court, Fleming road, Corby,
Northamptonshire, NN17 4SW


Polycrub®

DESIGNED IN SHETLAND FOR THE WILDEST WEATHER

W: polycrub.co.uk
E: info@polycrub.co.uk
T: 01806 335577

Cultivar
Space to grow

To learn more visit **CultivarGreenhouses.co.uk**
or call to talk one of our experts,
we are here to help: **01978 810 718**

Modular and Versatile every greenhouse from Cultivar is hand made to order and engineered to the highest specification to maximise your growing potential. Designed with superior ventilation and packed with features that you will not find in an ordinary greenhouse.

HCC EST 1930

Gardening Courses
Home-study

- For leisure or career - beginners welcome, tutor support
- Over 30 courses in Gardening, Garden Design, Arboriculture, Forestry, Floristry and more. Step by step lessons
- RHS, RFS/ ABC or City & Guilds qualifications available.

Start your gardening journey today!

Reader Saving - Code GW10 when you Enrol

RHS Approved Centre · City & Guilds Approved Centre

01409 220 777
www.hccollege.co.uk

dovetail greenhouses

10 YEAR Guarantee

Bespoke, Handmade Aluminium Greenhouses

High Quality extra strong greenhouses, individually designed and custom-built to suit your growing needs.

www.dovetailgreenhouses.co.uk 0121 311 2900

Genus GARDENWEAR

Stay Cool This Summer

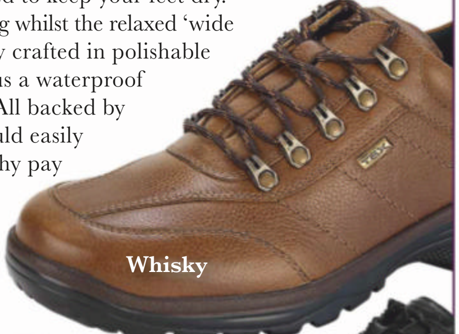
SummerCool
Trousers & Shorts

The hotter you get, the faster the fabric wicks to keep you cool and comfortable.

EXCLUSIVE 10% OFF PROMOTION with the code GW10

www.genus.gs

CALL US ON 0203 617 1166



Scotland's Finest since 1888

Waterproof 'Wide~Fit' Hikers only £69.95

Save £20 plus FREE P&P worth £4.95

Perfect for pottering in the garden yet tough enough for the trail, these waterproof leather hikers are a multi-purpose, comfort trek shoe, that are guaranteed to keep your feet dry. Their smart design and light weight makes them perfect for travelling whilst the relaxed 'wide fitting', plus cushioned insole, ensures all-day comfort. Superbly crafted in polishable leather which improves with age in a choice of 3 colours. Plus a waterproof membrane, bellows tongue, and a hardwearing PU sole. All backed by our **'No Quibble' Money Back Gurantee.** You could easily pay well over £100 for shoes of this quality so why pay more? **Order Today and get FREE p&p worth £4.95.**

Chocolate

Whisky

Black

Beauly Waterproof Hiker
Colours: Chocolate Leather, Whisky Leather, Black Leather
Sizes: 40-48 (6½-13)
Wide Fitting

FREE Returns

Fife Country ~ est 1888 ~

Normal Price £89.95 Special Price £69.95 SAVE £20 (plus FREE p&p worth £4.95)

www.fifecountry.co.uk
Please Quote 25AGW2 with your order

Tel:0345 607 6632
Mon-Fri 9-6pm, Sat 9-5pm, Sun 11-4pm

Hoggs of Fife 1888

Please quote code 25AGW2 on our website, by 'phone or return the coupon to: FREEPOST RTCK-ZKYJ-GGRB, Fife Country, Cupar, Fife KY15 4RB

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to Fife Country.
☐ Please charge £______________ from my credit/debit card
Card Type: Visa Debit ☐ Visa Credit ☐ Mastercard ☐

PLEASE SEND:	CODE	COLOUR	SIZE	QTY	TOTAL
Beauly Hiker	6990				
Beauly Hiker	6990				
FREE P&P WORTH £4.95				P&P	FREE
				TOTAL	£

Card No
Valid From
Expiry Date
Security No

Name
Address
Postcode_________ Tel
email

Thank you for your order. If you DO NOT wish to receive offers from carefully selected companies* please tick the box ☐
*Please see our full privacy policy at www.fifecountry.co.uk Company Reg No 15281 **Trusted for over 135 Years**

Plant Supports

Totally British made

Supporting great British Gardens

Plant Supports (UK) Limited is a family-run business with a passion for gardening and we are proud to say we manufacture high quality products in Britain, using British materials.

For details or to order telephone **01584 781578** or visit

www.plantsupports.co.uk

Plant supports (UK) Ltd. Skipperley, Rochford, Tenbury Wells, Worcs WR15 8SL

Wonderland boutique.com

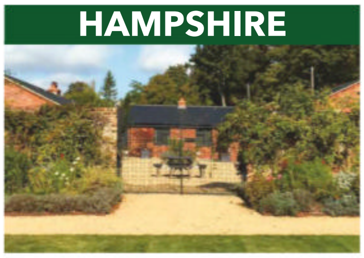
£89 (free p&p)

Reversible Cotton Jacket

Various designs

01263 732643

HAMPSHIRE



FABULOUS 5* SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY LETS IN MEON VALLEY

Within an hour of Mottisfont, Exbury, Hilliers and numerous NT properties.

Wheelchair access and Dog friendly.

towerfarmgardenholidaylets.co.uk

07860 759922

METAL PLANT SUPPORTS

100% UK Manufacture, all steel products from British Steel

5 Small Curved 30cm	£12.99	15 Pack 3L,3EW,3M,3S, 3 80CM Loop	£35.99
5 Extra Wide Curved 40cm	£16.99		
5 Medium Curved 50cm	£16.99	9 Pack 3L, 3M, 3EW	£24.99
5 Large Curved 62cm	£19.99	9 Pack 3S,3M,3EW	£22.99
5 Extra Tall Curved 75cm	£19.99	5 Loop/Stakes 130cm	£17.99
5 Tall Curved 100cm	£24.99	5 Loop/Stakes 100cm	£15.99
4 Semi Circle 65cm	£16.99	5 Loop 80cm	£14.99

*Free delivery on orders over £45**

* t&c's apply see our website

www.bespokeplantsupports.co.uk

HARRIS DRYBOOT

Looks like a boot, works like a wellington - without the hassle!

1953-2025

High quality, hardwearing,washable & quick drying
Padded cotton lining for all day comfort
Reinforced insole for heavy digging
Deep waterproof gusset for easy access & removal
Made in Malaysia Vegan friendly

Only £88.99 + p&p

Built for long days in the garden - rain or shine

WINNERS OF THE SME news UK ENTERPRISE AWARD

SME news SOUTHERN ENTERPRISE AWARDS

www.thedrybootcompany.com

07974 977112

Also available: conditioning spray, boot & soft top socks, insoles and hydrophobic laces

---

Leander

Est. 1980

PLANT SUPPORTS

& Garden Artefacts

www.leanderplantsupports.co.uk

OKATSUNE
日本のNo1
No.1 in JAPAN
MADE IN JAPAN

okatsune

岡恒

www.okatsune.co.uk | info@okatsune.co.uk | 01981 590224

CareCo
The UK's leading mobility retailer

THE BIG SUMMER SALE

Quick and easy folding with a light overall weight

TravelPro
FOLDING MOBILITY SCOOTER
- Quick to charge, lighter and longer lasting battery
- Front and rear lighting and a USB port to charge gadgets on the move
- Lifetime frame warranty

WAS ~~£2299.99~~
NOW ONLY
£1899.99
ex VAT
SAVE **£400**

SPIRIT Rollator

Padded backrest and seat for compact comfort

Spacious under-seat storage for keeping essentials close by

- Comfortable, ergonomic handles and smooth-rolling wheels
- Lightweight sturdy frame is easy to lift and manoeuvre

WAS ~~£89.99~~
NOW ONLY
£59.99
ex VAT
SAVE **£30**

Boston Riser Recliner

Riser helps you to stand and sit with ease

Leg rest and back rest can be adjusted at the same time

- Find the perfect position in seconds with the big-button handset
- Postural support with generous padding in the backrest and armrests

WAS ~~£699.99~~
NOW ONLY
£299.99
ex VAT
SAVE **£400**

STRATUS Folding powerchair

Puncture-proof tyres handle tougher terrain with ease

Lightweight frame folds away in seconds

- Comfy ergonomic handles, padded armrests and foldaway adjustable footrests
- Lightweight, easily accessible battery is simple to charge
- 9 mile range

WAS ~~£1699.99~~
NOW ONLY
£999.99
ex VAT
SAVE **£700**

Find your local showroom | Open 7 days a week

EAST OF ENGLAND

Ipswich, Crane Boulevard IP3 9SQ
Norwich, 8 Marriott Close NR2 4UX
Peterborough, 11 Bourges View Pk PE1 2FG
Stevenage, Roebuck Retail Park SG1 1XZ

LONDON & SOUTH EAST

Camberley, 52 London Road GU17 0AA
Canterbury, Simmonds Road CT1 3RH
Croydon, 230 Thornton Road CR0 3EU
Hayes, Hayes Road UB2 5BE
Maidstone, 48 Upper Stone St ME15 6HA
Milton Keynes, Erica Road MK12 6HS
Romford, Gallows Corner RM3 0BX

MIDLANDS

Brierley Hill, Dudley Road DY5 1HR
Coventry, Swallow Road CV6 4QY
Leicester, St Georges Way LE1 1SH
Lincoln, Bishops Trade Park LN2 4JZ
Nottingham, Castle Park NG2 1AH
Stoke, Tunstall Trade Park ST6 4SE

NORTH

Chester, 9a Bumper's Lane, Sealand Industrial Estate CH1 4LT
Hull, Anlaby Trade Park HU10 6RJ
Leeds, Spence Lane LS12 1EF
Newcastle, Blaydon Trade Park NE21 5TR
Preston, 74-76 Blackpool Road PR2 6NY
Sheffield, Unit 3 Burton Street S6 2HH
Warrington, Gemini Trade Park WA5 7YF

SOUTH COAST

Bournemouth, Vulcan Way BH21 7PT
Brighton, 75 Upper Brighton Rd BN15 0JQ
Eastbourne, Hillier Garden Cntr BN24 5BS
Southampton, Romsey Road SO16 9GJ

SOUTH WEST

Bristol, Taurus Road, Patchway BS34 6FB
Cheltenham, Kingsditch Rtl Park GL51 9LX
Exeter, Bridford Rd EX2 8QX
Plymouth, Unit 2, Cot Hill Close PL7 1SR
Now Open

SCOTLAND

Glasgow, 324 Battlefield Road G42 9JD

WALES

Cardiff, Hadfield Road CF11 8AQ

Opening Times
Mon - Sat: 9am – 6pm
(Eastbourne: 9am – 5:30pm)
Sunday: 10am – 4:30pm
(10am - 10:30am viewing only)

* PLEASE NOTE: Prices exclude VAT and are available to those with a long term medical condition.

Try before you buy

For expert mobility advice over a cuppa
visit your local CareCo showroom today

Trustpilot ★★★★★
Rated Excellent over 55,000 reviews

Call now on **0333 015 5000**
Mon - Fri: 8am to 7pm Sat & Sun: 8am to 6pm

Visit our website
www.careco.co.uk

Vist our nationwide
Showrooms

willowbrook
THE HOME OF COMFORT

SUMMER SALE UP TO 50% OFF*

UP TO 50% OFF*

Trustpilot ★★★★★ We're Rated Excellent

EXPRESS DELIVERY AVAILABLE

HAND MADE IN THE UK

HURRY, **LIMITED TIME ONLY!**

Luxury, handcrafted furniture made just for you

- Wide range of riser recliner chairs and adjustable beds
- Enjoy temporary positional relief
- FREE Delivery and installation
- VAT-FREE for qualifying customers
- Over 25 years' experience
- 100's of fabrics to suit all styles and tastes

For a brochure call **free** on
0800 854 330

Or see the full range at
willowbrook.co.uk

*Up to 50% OFF applies to selected items, excludes Home Care range. Optional extras charged as per retail price list. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offer ends 31/07/25.
GW17/07/25c

Get in and out of your bath safely with an **Easy2Bathe bath lift**

Easy to transfer to your bath

Safely lowers & lifts

Which? Trusted Trader Approved Installation Service

Save 20%*

*Plus FREE installation**

Enjoy full depth bathing

Trustpilot ★★★★★ We're Rated Excellent

For your FREE brochure or home demonstration
call **0800 083 0036**
or visit **www.easy2bathe.co.uk**

Easy2Bathe

*Applies to products with a 3 year warranty. See website for full terms and conditions. Offer ends 31/07/25.
GW17/07/25q

Over 50s Travel Insurance with no upper age limits

- ✓ 24/7 English speaking emergency helpline
- ✓ Unlimited medical cover available[1]
- ✓ Covered over 27 million travellers
- ✓ Trusted for 25 years

20% OFF[2]
BASE PRICES
CODE: IAG20

MAY 2025 Which? Best Buy TRAVEL INSURANCE

JUNE 2024 Which? Best Buy TRAVEL INSURANCE

FEBRUARY 2024 Which? Best Buy TRAVEL INSURANCE

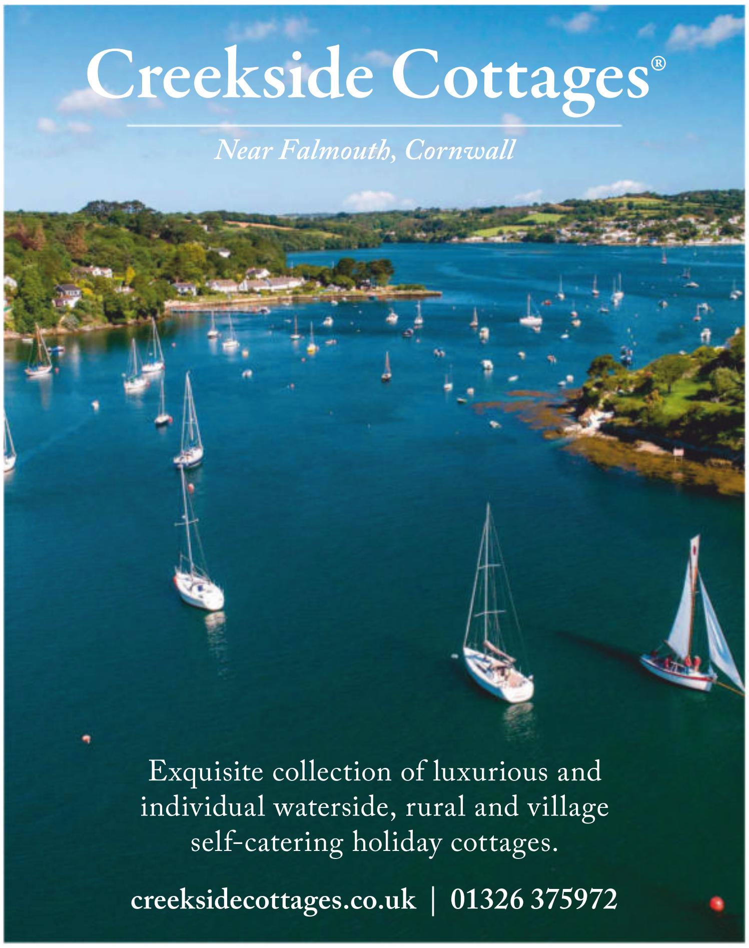
Trustpilot
Rated Excellent
★★★★★

defaqto
★★★★★
Travel Insurance 2011–2025
EXPERT RATED

INSUREANDGO
Go without the doubt

Call our UK Call Centre FREE
0800 249 4541
InsureandGo.com

^ InsureandGo Gold and Black achieved Which? Best buy. InsureandGo Gold and Black has been 5 Star rated by Defaqto.[1] Unlimited emergency medical expenses available on Black policies. [2] Discount applies to base premium of policies only and expires at 23:59 on 31/01025. See website T&Cs for more details.



Creekside Cottages®

Near Falmouth, Cornwall

Exquisite collection of luxurious and individual waterside, rural and village self-catering holiday cottages.

creeksidecottages.co.uk | 01326 375972

the walnut tree co.

St Mary's Platt, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent

The Walnut Tree Company is the leading supplier of quality Walnut timber, Walnut fruit, Sweet Chestnut, Almond, and Kentish Cobnut trees. **Alexander Hunt** also gives specialist advice for the garden, orchard, forest and amenities/landscape uses.

walnuttrees.co.uk

telephone 01732 882 734
facebook /PotashFarm
twitter @PotashFarm
website walnuttrees.co.uk
mobile 07979 525 939
email info@walnuttrees.co.uk

For all your vegetable

SEEDS

Tomatoes, chillies, salads – and much more

Sea Spring Seeds

www.seaspringseeds.co.uk

Sea Spring Seeds

Chilli Seeds

We sell seed of over 100 chilli varieties

From very mild to superhot... From large fruit for stuffing to tiny, firery surprises... From Spanish tapas peppers to Mexican poblanos... From compact, colourful plants to large, robust giants.

www.seaspringseeds.co.uk

Specialist in chillies and chilli breeder

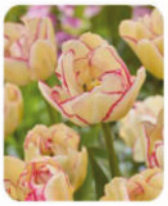
By Appointment to HM The King
Supplier of Garden Flower Bulbs
P. de Jager & Sons Limited
Worcestershire

deJager

Top Quality, Top Size Bulbs

By Appointment to HM The Queen
Supplier of Garden Flower Bulbs
P. de Jager & Sons Limited
Worcestershire

Order online using Voucher Code GW10 to receive a 10% discount
www.dejager.co.uk
To request your free catalogue call
01622 840229



SWALLOWTAIL DAYLILIES

DISCOVER DAYLILIES

The number one hardy perennial

The endlessly versatile, glamorously beguiling and kaleidoscopic Daylily (Hemerocallis) combines cast iron hardiness, durability and long lasting value blooming for several weeks during the summer. Increasing in value year after year they are a superb investment for any garden or patio.

My collection includes the best awe inspiring modern introductions, together with rarer heritage varieties and garden classics too.

GIANT • LARGE FLOWERED • MINIATURES
DOUBLES • SPIDERS & EXOTICS

Quality 11cm pot grown plants delivered promptly year round.

swallowtail-daylilies.com • 07765907044

UK DELIVERIES • COLLECTION BY ARRANGEMENT
LANDSCAPE SPECIALS & SPECIAL PRICE COLLECTIONS

Chris Bowers & Sons
WHERE QUALITY REIGNS

THE FRUIT PLANT SPECIALISTS

The very widest range of top quality fruit trees, berries and vines suitable for all gardens.

We despatch year round with an extensive selection of container grown stock currently available for prompt despatch.

For inspiration, expert advise and knowledge visit our website:
chrisbowers.co.uk • 01366 386858

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Give a subscription to *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine*

Treat a friend or relative to a subscription to the gardening magazine of the year and pay only **£24.50 every 6 issues**† - **saving 42%** on the shop price

BBC SPECIAL SUBSCRIBER EDITION
AUGUST 2025
GARDENING MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR
Gardeners' World
Taste of the tropics
Exotic plant guide
Urban jungle inspiration
Style from St Lucia
INSIDE YOUR ISSUE
MONTY on the power of scent
FRANCES keeps the summer garden in shape
Get composting in just one metre
Grow food and flowers side by side
Nursery tips from the growers
ARIT shares design secrets
Aquatic house plant style

Offer ends **1 October 2025**

2 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

Call 03330 162123* and quote code **GWNP25**

Visit buysubscriptions.com/GWNP25

SCAN ME

Gardeners' World magazine Subscriber CLUB

When you give your friends a gift subscription, they'll enjoy the benefits of joining the *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine* Subscriber Club:

1 **FREE delivery** to their door

2 **Premium** Access special subscriber-only content at **GardenersWorld.com**

3 **Exclusive money-saving offers plus competitions,** discounts and free seeds

4 **GW Live events** Enjoy discounted tickets and promotional offers

†This offer is only open to new UK customers subscribing to *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine* by recurring payment. The closing date for this offer is 1 October 2025. Pay £24.50 every 6 issues, saving 42% on the usual shop price. You may cancel at any time and receive a full refund on any outstanding issues by contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may also be required. We reserve the right to reject or cancel subscriptions during the trial period for that magazine or any other magazine in the Immediate portfolio. Prices are discounted from the full UK subscription price and include P&P. Standard UK subscription price: £84.24 / Europe and Republic of Ireland: €118 / Rest of the World: US$166 / USA and Canada: US$143.88 / Australia and New Zealand: A$180.*UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). Outside of free call packages, call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 65p per minute. For overseas subscriptions, call +44 (0) 1604 973731. Please visit buysubscriptions.com/contact for customer service opening hours.

In Conversation at
Kew Gardens

EVENT SPONSORED BY Inspired Villages

PICNIC & PERFORMANCE

RadioTimes

IN CONVERSATION WITH & THE BEST QUIZ EVER
RICHARD OSMAN
ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG
HOSTED BY
TOM LOXLEY
Thu 4 Sept

HISTORY EXTRA

ANCIENT ROME: REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE
TOM HOLLAND
MARY BEARD
HOSTED BY
ELLIE CAWTHORNE
Fri 5 Sept

BBC Gardeners' World Live

DIGGING DEEPER: GARDEN CHAT & TOP TIPS
ADAM FROST
FRANCES TOPHILL
HOSTED BY
NICKI CHAPMAN
Sat 6 Sept

BBC COUNTRYFILE on stage

IN CONVERSATION WITH BBC COUNTRYFILE
MATT BAKER
JOHN CRAVEN
ADAM HENSON
HOSTED BY
ANITA RANI
Sun 7 Sept

Quote GWR15 for 15%* off
inconversationlive.co.uk

BOOK NOW

ORGANISED BY
IMMEDIATE LIVE

*Adult/Concession Premium and Standard tickets only. Not valid on Kew Member tickets, Child, Groups or with any other offer. Ends 23:59pm on 10 July 2025. Transaction fee applies. Details correct at time of print. The Gardeners' World and Countryfile logos are a trademark of the BBC and used under license from BBC Studios. © BBC.

HOSTED AT Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

NEXT *month*

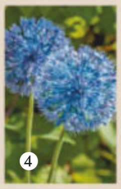
September issue *on sale 14 August*

Make way for autumn!

- Style up the season with everlasting wreaths and garlands
- Get your garden into shape with autumn problem-solving advice
- Add continued interest with hot colours and bold planting

Create a family harvest festival

Gardeners' World offer
1



WORTH £23.95

103 FREE* allium bulbs for every reader

These colourful and easy alliums will add sparkle to sunny beds and pots in late spring and summer:

❶ ***Allium moly*** **x 51**
❷ ***A. sphaerocephalon*** **x 43**
❸ ***A.*** **'Purple Sensation' x 3**
❹ ***A. caeruleum*** **x 3**
❺ ***A.*** **'Graceful Beauty' x 3**

**Just pay £5.95 postage*

Thompson & Morgan

Find out how **Monty** uses colour to great effect at Longmeadow

Design dreamy pots of bicolour plants with **Lucy Bellamy**

Celebrate salvias with **Carol** and discover her top choices

Nick shares his Make A Metre Matter tips from GW Live

Gather, save and store your autumnal bounty with **Alan**

PLUS ■ **Seed-saving tips** ■ **Bulbs for borders** ■ **September's star plants** ■ **2 for 1 gardens** ■ **More than 50 timely tasks**

PHOTOS: SARAH CUTTLE; NEIL HEPWORTH; JASON INGRAM

Tales from Titchmarsh

A hose may be the most efficient way to water your plants, but nothing beats a good old-fashioned watering can, says **Alan**

Carrying the can is not normally something that causes rejoicing. It implies comeuppance as a result of some kind of transgression, an admission of guilt or oversight. But in the garden the term has a different meaning, especially at this time of year. I will come clean. I love watering. I know that when time is short and the sun is beating down you can feel a slave to that water carrier on the end of your arm, but there is something innately satisfying about catering to a plant's needs and knowing that your ministrations are the difference between vibrant life and withering death.

I know there is always the hosepipe to make life easier, and it is certainly gentler on the biceps. I wish it did not kink every time I unwind it, but when attached to a sprinkler it is supremely useful and timesaving for watering beds, borders, the veg patch and newly planted treasures. Yet when it comes to watering containers – even a lot of them – I am prepared to put in the time and carry the can.

But what size? The commonest carries two gallons (7.5 litres), which is heavy. If you have lots of pots to water in a greenhouse – some of them on shelves – you will find it not only a real pain in the arm but also too bulky. Yes, the capacity of choice for greenhouse watering is one gallon, which is far easier to wield, even if it does need filling up more often than its larger relative.

I have always loved watering cans. I've no idea why. Maybe it is the very simplicity of their purpose and their action. My first was the classic Peter Rabbit can – the one in which he hid when chased by Mr McGregor. I still have a couple, though they're not my favourites since they are rather bottom heavy. I use them in the veg garden for puddling in brassicas and the like, and when parked by the shed they add a Beatrix Potter flavour to the rustic scene.

> “After a lifetime of service, their galvanised bodies can rest and cultivate admiring glances rather than plants”

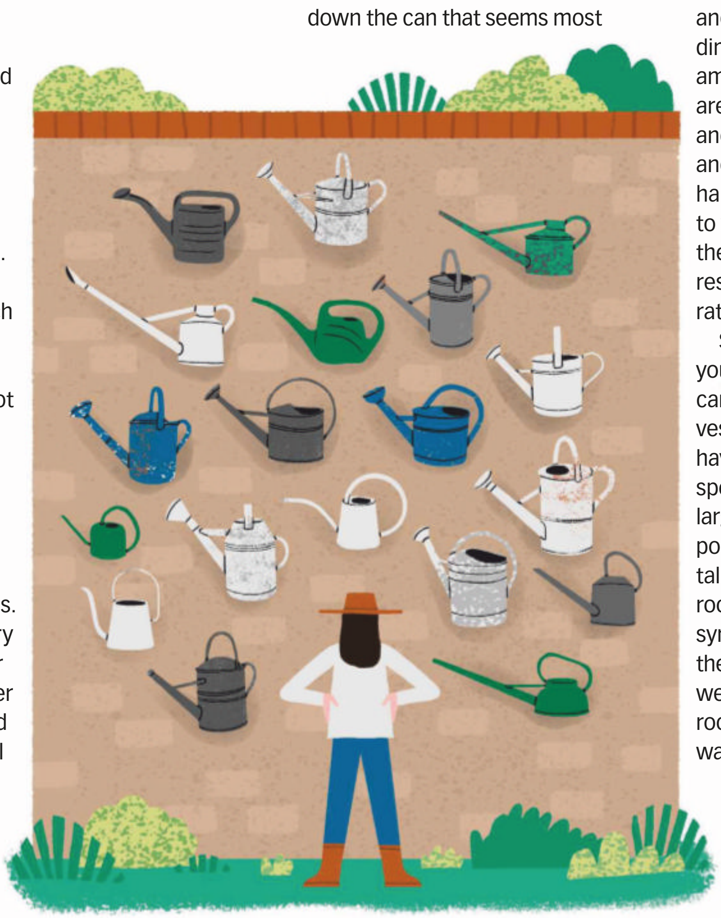


PHOTO: JASON INGRAM
ILLUSTRATION: CHRIS MADDEN

No, my favourite is the long-spouted kind that makes watering pot plants so much more effective since the spout can be eased under the foliage to deliver the stuff of life exactly where it is needed. For seedlings and newly potted plants, you'll need a rose (the quaint name we give to a sprinkler head). Saddo that I am, I have a number of these in varying degrees of coarseness and fineness. They are mounted in gradations of fineness along a series of 4in nails fixed to the wooden rafter in my kitchen garden greenhouse. Like a surgeon reaching for his favoured scalpel, I will take down the can that seems most suited to the job in hand – a fine one for watering a tray of newly pricked-out seedlings or a coarser one for freshly planted summer bedding.

The Haws watering can – the type I use – has been around since 1886 and what I assume to be the original design is still doing sterling service. In the nursery where I worked as an apprentice, we actually had a 3-gallon Haws can, though none of us except the most dedicated bodybuilder looked forward to wielding it. It sat in the corner of a greenhouse, daring us to pick it up and survive the day without succumbing to a rotator cuff injury.

Alongside an old flint wall in my garden, I have a row of a dozen watering cans of assorted design and capacity. They are arranged in diminishing order of size and it's amazing how many variations there are on such a simple theme: tall and slender, short and squat, bulky and neat. I don't use them; I'm just happy that, after a lifetime of service to who knows how many gardeners, their galvanised bodies can now rest and cultivate admiring glances rather than plants.

Some of them are French. Now, if you've encountered French watering cans you will know that they are vessels of great beauty. They often have a rounded, inflated body and a spout that comes equipped with a large and convex rose. I have a highly polished copper version, fully 45cm tall, that is an ornament in our sitting room. It is a talisman for me, a symbol of a life spent tending to the plants I love. Oh yes, and the weather vane I designed for our rooftop is of a hoe leaning on a watering can. That says it all, really.

Alan.

Meet Alan at Highgrove Gardens for an exclusive *Gardeners' World* evening. See page 52

THE GREAT BRITISH RHINO

perfectly evolved for

THE GREAT BRITISH GARDEN

RHINO greenhousesdirect

With an ultra-tough build, and more ventilation and shading as standard than any other greenhouse, a Rhino will protect your plants in the full bloom of summer, against heat, against scorching, and against the odd errant football when the grandchildren are visiting.

MADE IN BRITAIN

RHINOGREENHOUSES.CO.UK | 0800 694 1929

HSL

Feel Good Furniture
Experts since 1968

Burrows Classic 3 Seater Sofa,
shown in Volante Indigo.

SAVE OVER £1,245

Was £2,745
NOW £1,499**

Limited Time
SUMMER SALE
up to
50% off*
Everything

Stylish furniture that doesn't just look good, it does good too...

Improve your posture and wellbeing with our specially designed back care support sofas.

Call **01924 507050** | Visit **hslchairs.com**

HANDMADE
in YORKSHIRE

'Excellent'
★★★★★
Trustpilot
from over
25,000 reviews

*Save up to 50% across our collections, ask in-store or visit hslchairs.com for details. Only valid on full priced items, cannot be used in conjunction with any discounted or special offer products or vouchers and cannot be used on retrospective purchases. Discounts shown are correct at time of printing and are subject to change without notice. Valid between 01.07.25 - 01.09.25. **Price refers to the sofa in the fabric shown. | Media: BBG25